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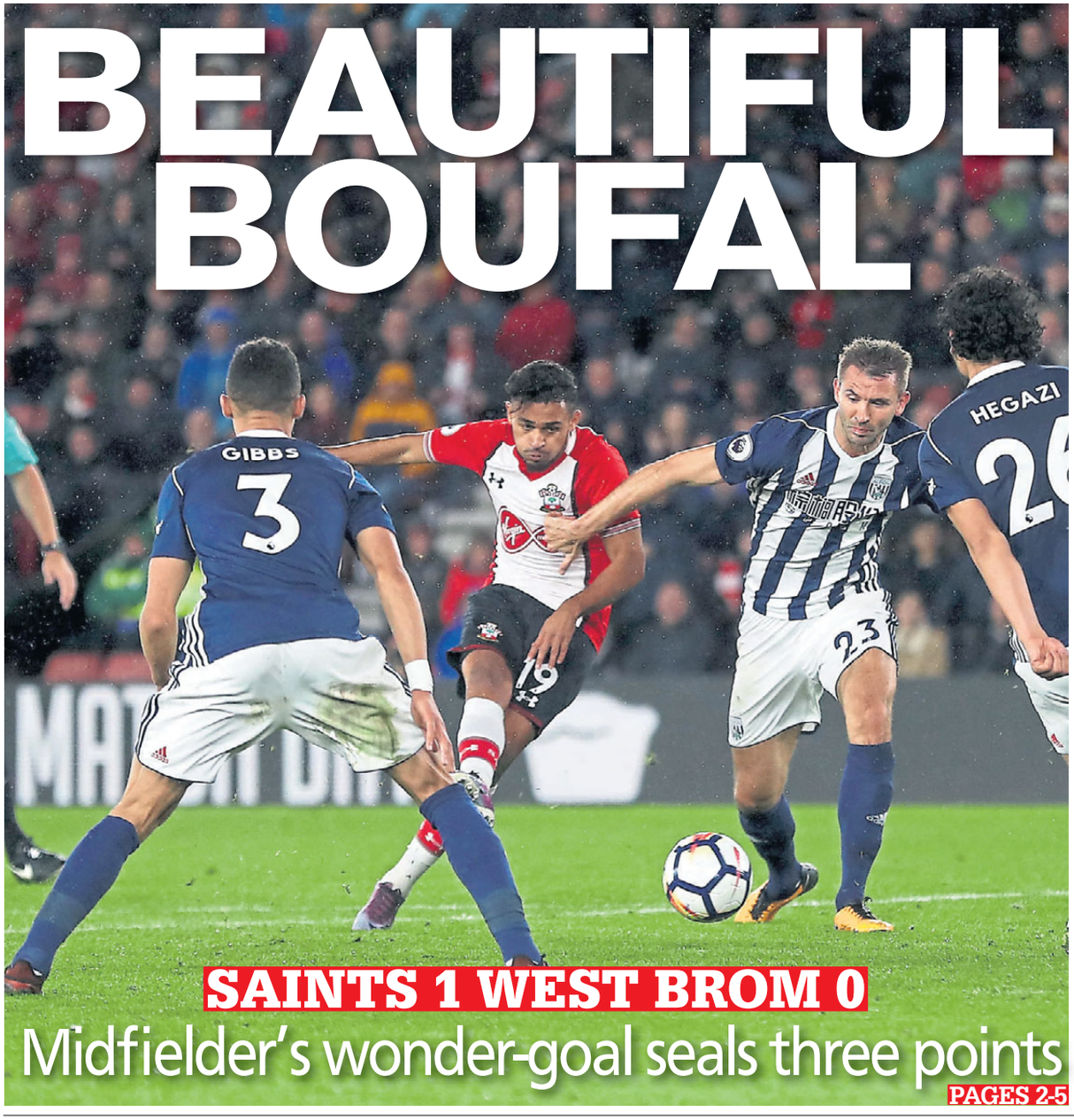
October 21 2017

Cherries' vital win at Stoke

PAGES 6-7

BEAUTIFUL BOUFAL



SAINTS 1 WEST BROM 0

Midfielder's wonder-goal seals three points

PAGES 2-5

Eastleigh grab vital last-gasp winner

PAGE 11

Southampton women close gap on rivals

PAGES 8-9

BTC's night of their lives against Saints

PAGES 18-19

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SAINTS

Newcastle snatch home win

MIKEL Merino came off the bench to head Newcastle to a 1-0 victory over Crystal Palace with his first goal in English football.

The Spaniard's bullet header from Matt Ritchie's 85th-minute corner handed the Magpies a win they barely deserved on an afternoon where they were poor for long periods before producing a late flurry.

Palace, who enjoyed the better of much of the game, ultimately paid for not making the most of their chances, the best of which fit-again winger Wilfried Zaha headed wide before the break.

Both sets of fans in a crowd of 52,251 arrived at St James' Park with hope renewed, the locals amid talk of a takeover which they hope will bring fresh investment and the visitors having seen their side finally end their wait for a first league win of the campaign.

What they saw on a grey Tyneside afternoon, however, was far more prosaic as Newcastle laboured in the quest for creativity and the Eagles were unable to rediscover the incision which served them so well against the men from Stamford Bridge.

Newcastle had correctly identified Zaha as the biggest threat to their hopes of a positive result and had tasked midfielder Ritchie with providing the support full-back DeAndre Yedlin needed to keep him at bay. Zaha and former Magpie Andros Townsend, who was booed at every touch, were paired in a makeshift attack once again and, while they caused problems, they were unable to trouble keeper Rob Elliot to any great extent.

Elliot had to claw away Zaha's 23rd-minute shot from a tight angle after Jeffrey Schlupp had failed to make meaningful contact with an attempted header, and Zaha was appealing in vain for a penalty four minutes later after going down under Yedlin's challenge.

Yohan Cabaye's late tackle on Yedlin seconds later sparked a melee which prompted referee Stuart Attwell to book Jamaal Lascelles and Patrick van Aanholt as well as the Frenchman.

Ritchie saw a 26th-minute effort deflected wide by Mamadou Sakho and Christian Atsu blasted into the side-netting, but the unmarked Zaha spurned the first half's best chance six minutes before the break when he headed wastefully wide from Townsend's cross.

The home side found themselves defending deep as Palace dominated possession in the early stages of the second half, but inspiration remained in short supply.

Townsend sent a dipping 65th-minute shot over Elliot's crossbar, but Newcastle belatedly found their feet and, after substitute Mohamed Diame had warmed keeper Julian Speroni's hands with a curling effort, Jonjo Shelvey caused him a degree of difficulty with a swerving long-range strike which he just about managed to block.

Van Aanholt only just failed to connect with substitute Ruben Loftus-Cheek's cross as he slid in at the far post with 10 minutes remaining, but Merino struck from Ritchie's corner to snatch victory at the death.

SAINTS 1 WEST BROM 0

Sofiane stunner

Adam **Leitch**

SOFIANE Boufal scored his first goal in ten months to hand Saints a much needed 1-0 victory against West Brom.

The Moroccan international was introduced as a late sub as Mauricio Pellegrino's side tried in vain to break down a stubborn Baggies backline and executed a sublime piece of individual magic five minutes from time to grab the points.

Boufal's breath-taking run from deep inside his own half before a brilliant finish into the bottom corner gave Saints only their third win of the season.

Saints started the game in their 4-2-3-1 formation, with Shane Long out on the right, Dusan Tadic in the hole and Steven Davis on the left, with Manolo Gabbiadini as the lone striker through the middle.

West Brom had the first crack at goal as Gareth Barry tried his luck from 20 yards with a shot that hit the side netting.

It was a rare foray forward with the Baggies playing a predictable game, but executing it well.

They were so deep from the off, getting ten men behind the ball and happy to sit two banks of players in front of their own box to make themselves very hard to break down, and then try and hit on the counter attack.

TEAM NEWS

NATHAN Redmond was dropped by Mauricio Pellegrino for the visit of West Brom to St Mary's.

The only change from the Saints line-up that drew 2-2 with Newcastle was Redmond dropping out of the side to be replaced by Steven Davis.

That meant Pellegrino sticking with both Manolo Gabbiadini and Shane Long in more of a 4-4-2 formation as Saints looked to attack West Brom.

Jay Rodriguez made his first return to St Mary's after being named in the Baggies side.

SAINTS: Forster, Cedric, Yoshida, van Dijk, Bertrand, Romeu, Lemina, Tadic, Davis, Gabbiadini, Long.
Subs: McCarthy, Hoedt, McQueen, Ward-Prowse, Redmond, Boufal, Austin.
WEST BROM: Foster, Dawson, Hegazi, Evans, Gibbs, Livermore, Krychowiak, Barry, Rodriguez, Chadli, Rondon.
Subs: Myhill, Nyom, McAuley, McClean, Yacob, Brunt, Phillips.

Mario Lemina tried a speculative effort from distance to try and get something going for Saints but sliced well over.

Saints came so close to taking the lead on 17 minutes as they hit the post.

Long won a free kick in a fairly central position 20 yards out that Ryan Bertrand tried to whip over the wall. His left footed curler clipped the head of Jonny Evans in the wall and deflected onto the post.

Tadic forced Ben Foster into a save two minutes later after being found by Bertrand's left wing cutback but his shot was held at the near post by the Baggies stopper.

Saints were piling on the pressure and possibly should have taken the lead moments later as West Brom failed to clear an inswinging corner and the ball fell to Oriol Romeu in the middle of the six yard box.

He had to try and finish on the spin but couldn't find the target.

After West Brom had penalty appeals waved away as Tadic clearly handled in the area, Saints broke quickly and spurned a golden opportunity on 29 minutes.

Gabbiadini led the charge with a surging run down the left and produced a perfect low cross to find Long. The striker opted to let the ball run across him and take it with his right foot but from just a few yards out put it wide.

West Brom were forced into a substitution on 32 minutes as Jonny Evans limped off following an earlier clash with Long to be replaced by Allan Nyom.

Maya Yoshida came close three minutes before half time with as he won a header from a corner six yards out but the ball bounced up at a nice height for Foster who dived to his left to turn wide.

That proved to be the final chance of a first half in which Saints had created a few openings but couldn't break the deadlock.

Saints were knocking on the door at the start of the second period and threatened as Gabbiadini flicked a header from a right wing cross from Cedric Soares narrowly over the bar.

Long tried to force the issue with a low drive from 20 yards out but though it was well struck it was straight at Foster.

West Brom made a second change with Gareth McAuley replacing Gareth Barry on 53 minutes as the Baggies went to five at the back.

Jay Rodriguez had his first effort at goal against his old side after Solomon Rondon knocked the ball down to him outside the area but his shot went tamely wide.

Fraser Forster had something resembling a save to make as West Brom got a first shot on target on 56 minutes with a Kieran Gibbs header requiring stopping even if it wasn't exactly a taxing stop.

Rodriguez had a great chance for West Brom as a ball over the top saw him burst through on goal and had only Forster to beat but as the ball bounced in front of him he put his half volley across goal and well wide.

Nacer Chadli became the first player in the book for a trip on Tadic.

Gabbiadini had another sight of

SAINTS

Steven Davis and West Bromwich Albion's Grzegorz Krychowiak battle for the ball.

goal from the edge of the box but he could only guide the ball towards Foster who made a comfortable save.

Saints made their first change on 70 minutes as Nathan Redmond came on for Romeu.

Tadic had a fantastic chance to give Saints the lead two minutes later as a ball from the left came all the way through to him in space at the far post. However, Foster charged out and smothered the finish. Tadic then appealed for a penalty as he went down chasing the rebound. Foster did touch his thigh but the midfielder went down easily.

Chadli tried an instinctive effort first time at the other end which Forster turned over the bar.

West Brom made a final switch on 77 minutes with Matt Phillips replacing Chadli.

Saints responded with a double change with nine minutes remaining to try and get a goal with Sofiane Boufal and Charlie Austin coming on for Tadic and Long.

The substitution did the trick as Boufal scored a wonder goal five minutes from time.

He picked the ball up midway inside his own half, tricked his way past two players and burst forward.

As he approached the edge of the area he cut inside onto his right footed and steered a perfectly measured shot into the bottom corner.

Maya Yoshida attempts an overhead kick.

West Brom were forced to finish the game with ten men as the injured Craig Dawson had to be helped from the field.

It meant Saints were able to finish the game at something of a canter – they came closest to scoring as Austin hit the outside of the post from a very acute angle – and that, deservedly, by far the best moment of the match secured the three points.

Terriers in shock win over United

HUDDERSFIELD are celebrating one of their best wins in decades after Aaron Mooy and Laurent Depoitre brought Manchester United's unbeaten Premier League start to a shock halt.

David Wagner's promoted side had failed to win any of their previous six top-flight matches and last beat United in March 1952 - just a month after Queen Elizabeth II ascended to the throne.

United entered the weekend second in the standings but the wheels came off in Yorkshire as Mooy's opener was followed by Depoitre capitalising on Victor Lindelof's error, with Huddersfield holding on for a dream 2-1 win after Marcus Rashford ensured a nervy ending.

Wagner's side were made to sweat but showed no sign of intimidation as they heeded the advice of their raucous fans, whose banner as the teams emerged read "if you have passion and desire you have no limits!"

The words echo the philosophy that saw Huddersfield win the play-offs - and there is no doubt this win is right up there with this year's Wembley triumph.

A feisty occasion took a surprise turn midway through the first half as Mooy robbed Juan Mata of possession and eventually fired home after David De Gea parried Thomas Ince's shot.

Lindelof, on minutes earlier for the injured Phil Jones, was turned inside out by Ince and things soon got worse for the substitute, who embarrassingly misread goalkeeper Jonas Lossl's long ball to gift Depoitre a chance he lapped up.

Huddersfield's performance belied that of a side who lost 4-0 to Tottenham in their last home match, beginning with intensity that showed no let up.

United needed to be up for the fight and Anthony Martial took it too far in the early stages, kicking out at Tommy Smith having been irked by the Town captain's challenge.

Referee Lee Mason booked both players after they squared up, setting the tone for a feisty first half that saw Romelu Lukaku and Elias Kachunga trade shots on target.

The former tried an acrobatic shot and Ander Herrera dragged wide as it looked like United started to settle, only for Jones' injury to throw their afternoon off kilter.

Within five minutes of the change, Mooy all too easily dispossessed Mata around the halfway line and burst towards the United goal before playing through the overlapping Ince.

The winger turned Jones' replacement Lindelof inside out to get away a shot that De Gea could only parry into path of Mooy to rifle home and send the Huddersfield fans wild.

Elation turned to disbelief in the 33rd minute as the home side scored again.

Rashford and Henrikh Mkhitaryan came on at the beginning of the second half for Martial and Mata as the rain poured in Yorkshire, with play swinging from end-to-end in miserable conditions.

Ashley Young's effort wide was the best United could muster until the 76th minute when Lossl denied Herrera.

Within two minutes, though, there was hope for Mourinho's side as Lukaku swung in a cross and Rashford caught the backline napping to head home. Chris Smalling had a late effort blocked during a chaotic ending, but Huddersfield held out and a remarkable din greeted the final whistle.

SAINTS VS WEST BROM, ST MARY'S STADIUM, OCTOBER

Saints v West Brom

Shane Long.

Oriol Romeu and Grzegorz Krychowiak.

Manolo Gabbiadini and Jake Livermore.

21, 2017

Nathan Redmond.

Virgil van Dijk.

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Cherries ace Charlie signs up for Mata's charity

BOURNEMOUTH'S Charlie Daniels and Swansea's Alfie Mawson have become the first English players to pledge at least one per cent of their wages to Juan Mata's Common Goal project.

The Manchester United and Spain midfielder launched the initiative in August to help high-impact football charities across the world.

Giorgio Chiellini, Mats Hummels and Serge Gnabry are among those to have so far pledged to Common Goal, with Daniels and Mawson now joining them - the first English players to do so.

"I've been speaking to several English players who have shown an interest in Common Goal and it's brilliant that Charlie and Alfie are the first players to make the pledge," Mata said.

"They are both top Premier League players and their commitment is a great step in the evolution of Common Goal."

Daniels has helped Bournemouth rise from League One to the Premier League, while Mawson represented England at this year's European Under-21 Championship after a fine first season at Swansea.

"It was only a few years ago that I

Charlie Daniels

was playing non-league and helping out my dad at the weekends with his market stall," 23-year-old defender Mawson said.

"I'm now at a great place and I want to concentrate 100 per cent on my football.

"I don't want to cause any fuss or anything, but joining Common Goal allows me to focus on my career while forming part of something that can really help transform lives of those less fortunate. It's a good thing for football."

Daniels, 31, added: "I've experienced pretty much everything that you can live as a player in England. Maybe that's why I'll never forget where I've come from.

"Football is such an important part of my life, as it is for so many people in this country. It just seems right that our national sport gives something back to society.

"Common Goal is the most effective and long-lasting way for players to make a difference.

"If my pledge can help spread the idea of Common Goal, especially among the younger players, then it will be one of the proudest achievements of my career."

Common Goal is run by the Berlin-based organisation streetfootballworld, which invests in more than 120 football-based charities in 80 countries.

CHERRIES

Cherries hang

STOKE have been sucked into the Premier League relegation zone after two goals within 133 seconds earned Bournemouth a first top-flight victory on their travels this season.

Eddie Howe's side had lost each of their four away fixtures, but Andrew Surman's opener at the bet365 Stadium was swiftly followed by a Junior Stanislas penalty, awarded after Ryan Shawcross tripped Benik Afobe.

The Potters pulled one back in the second period through Mame Diouf but a 2-1 loss saw them drop into the bottom three following a run of one win from eight in all competitions.

Amid typically blustery Staffordshire weather, Stoke's afternoon got bleaker shortly after kick-off.

The first of two goals in quick succession originated down the right, where Jordon Ibe spotted Adam Smith's run to the byline. His pull-back to Stanislas allowed the forward to tee up Surman to steer a well-controlled effort into the corner of Jack Butland's net.

It went from bad to worse from a home perspective as just 80 seconds later Stoke conceded a penalty.

Stanislas' terrific back-heeled nutmeg of Kurt Zouma released Afobe to run at the returning Shawcross, whose clumsy scissor-kicked challenge felled the Cherries forward.

Stanislas had to convince Afobe to let him take the penalty and he made no mistake by placing down the middle to trigger jeers from a disgruntled Stoke fanbase.

Former Potters keeper Asmir Begovic made a smart near-post stop to deny Diouf but it needed a fine intervention from Butland at the other end to thwart a deflected effort from Ibe, who should have squared for Afobe having been freed by a defence-splitting Stanislas pass.

Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting nodded an Erik Pieters cross just wide and Shawcross went close with a stretching effort from Darren Fletcher's free-kick, but the hosts entered the interval 2-0 behind.

Unsurprisingly Mark Hughes then abandon his back-three system after an ineffective first period where they accommodated their visitors time and space.

Joe Allen should have hit the target having been found by Glen Johnson before the right-back was replaced by Peter Crouch as Hughes sent out another SOS to his towering target man.

Within four minutes Stoke had pulled one back, though it had little to do with their new arrival.

A semi-cleared corner reached Pieters and his ball back into the box ricocheted kindly to Diouf via Simon Francis' attempted clearance off Choupo-Moting, and the Senegalese bundled the ball past Begovic with his thigh.

It was a script Stoke had followed so many times in recent years - throwing on Crouch at home in grim conditions to fire up both the crowd and players, and Bournemouth were now having to weather the storm.

Judging by his demeanour on the touchline, Hughes wanted

Junior Stanislas scores from the penalty spot.

CHERRIES

on for vital win

Stoke City's Mame Biram Diouf (left) and Charlie Daniels.

Lewis Cook (left) and Stoke City's Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting.

Andrew Surman celebrates scoring his side's first goal.

a penalty when Jese Rodriguez tripped over Smith's leg, but the exaggerated fall did little for his case.

There was to be no spirited second-half comeback from the hosts, though, at the start of what they thought would be a run of fixtures to shoot up the division.

Foxes out of bottom three

LEICESTER climbed out of the Premier League relegation zone as the post-Craig Shakespeare era began with a 2-1 win at Swansea.

Michael Appleton was in caretaker command after Shakespeare's midweek sacking and Leicester fully merited the three points handed to them by Federico Fernandez's first-half own goal and Shinji Okazaki's fifth of the season just after the interval.

Alfie Mawson reduced the deficit from a 56th-minute corner but Swansea were poor for most of the contest and were indebted to their goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski for keeping them in the contest.

Shakespeare had paid the price for a winless run of six games and just one league victory all season.

But just as they had done following the departure of title-winning manager Claudio Ranieri in February, Leicester responded with a display out of keeping with recent performances.

Leicester showed their intent inside the first minute when Okazaki's glancing header forced a fine reaction stop from Fabianski.

Fabianski soon tipped over Marc Albrighton's rising drive and the Poland goalkeeper was alert to deny Jamie Vardy and Wilfred Ndidi as the Foxes dominated both possession and territory.

But Fabianski had no answer after 25 minutes when Leicester profited from Riyad Mahrez switching over to the left flank.

Swansea felt the ball had gone out of play but Mahrez was allowed to continue and whip in a cross which Fernandez headed past the helpless Fabianski.

The hosts had come into the game on the back of a morale-boosting 2-0 victory over Huddersfield but there was little intensity and creativity about their play.

Tammy Abraham cut an isolated figure up front after his Huddersfield double, although he did prompt Kasper Schmeichel into a straightforward save from Martin Olsson's cross.

Schmeichel was called upon again when Jordan Ayew's cross deflected off Danny Simpson, but Leicester continued to dominate and Fabianski was needed to hold onto Ndidi's 25-yard effort.

Leicester doubled their lead four minutes into the second period when Swansea again reacted sluggishly to a Foxes' counter-attack.

Albrighton was allowed to run unchallenged down the left and he found the unmarked Mahrez, who stayed onside to set up Okazaki from close range.

Swansea had looked disjointed but they were given a 56th-minute lifeline when Ayew caused confusion at the near post from Renato Sanches' corner.

The ball ran to Mawson and he spun and shot in one movement to find the bottom corner of Schmeichel's net from eight yards.

Swansea finally began to apply some pressure and tested Leicester's resolve with a succession of crosses into the visitors' penalty area.

Fabianski came to Swansea's rescue again to deny Vardy and Mahrez but Leicester leapfrog them in the table with the win.

Chelsea win 'important'

CHELSEA defender Cesar Azpilicueta admitted the come-from-behind Premier League win over Watford was important for the champions.

Antonio Conte's team trailed 2-1 early in the second half at Stamford Bridge but goals from substitute Michy Batshuayi, either side of one from Azpilicueta, turned things around to secure a 4-2 home win.

The Spaniard told Sky Sports afterwards: "We had to dig in until the last minute and we showed our spirit.

"It wasn't our best game but we got an important win for our confidence after three games without winning.

"We started really well and had chances to score the second. The confidence was a bit lower because of their second goal but we didn't given up. It's a big win for us.

"We know it's a long season and will have ups and downs but this is the first step to get the confidence up."

Batshuayi added: "I stay focused every day and train and play hard. I came on the pitch to do my job – I scored two goals for the team and got three points. I'm very happy today. It's good for the team."

Watford boss Marco Silva said: "It was a really unfair result. We were in control most of the time.

"We didn't create a lot in the first half but we controlled the match. In the second half, for 35 to 40 minutes, I saw one team playing.

"We had clear chances to finish the match at 3-1 but they achieved an unfair result. I think everyone saw this on the pitch."

The Hornets trailed 1-0 but goals either side of half-time from Abdoulaye Doucoure and Roberto Pereyra had them ahead, although they were left to rue a Richarlison miss.

SIlva continued: "I'm proud of how we started the second half. Everyone's frustrated in the dressing room but we need to continue.

"Batshuayi and Willian made a big difference but it was fantastic organisation and work from our players."

On Richarlison's miss, the Portuguese added on Sky Sports: "He didn't score today but he will score in the next match.

"We created the chance and the player got in the right place to score. Normally he scores and kills the match but that's football. I am sure in the future he'll score more goals."

PINK INK

Getting closer

SOUTHAMPTON Women's FC proved they have closed the gap on arch rivals Portsmouth, but lost their 100 per cent record for the season.

Due to the FA Women's Premier League Cup remaining regional for its first few rounds, there was no other opponent for Southampton other than Pompey Ladies.

Wins against Denham United and Actonians in the earlier rounds had earned the Saints a home draw at AFC Totton.

In their last two games, the gap has slowly closed between the two sides.

In February 2016, Portsmouth romped to a 10-2 win in the semi-final of the Hampshire FA Cup.

In March of this year they met in the Hampshire FA Cup Final and at half time the score was 2-2. Pompey finally won 6-3.

Portsmouth are a league above Southampton in the FA Women's Premier League structure.

They have been there for several years, whilst Southampton have had year-on-year promotions and are now in the FAWPL for the first time. This time the margin of victory was smaller again – Pompey winning 3-1.

Emma Pinner just failed to get on the end of a through ball from Kirsty Whitton before Pompey took a 13th minute lead through Gemma Hillier's powerful shot from just outside the box.

On 24 minutes Shannon Albuery doubled the advantage, but the hosts refused to cave in and Yeates shot straight at the keeper.

Laura Vokes was running the left side of the pitch, holding her position well and driving forward when needed.

Southampton came out with a new-found purpose in the second half and on 49 minutes Vokes scored after a perfect pass from Phil Holden.

Nat Bavister had released the ball from defence with a long, accurate ball and set up the move.

Pinner went close to an equaliser, her shot being saved and Boswell clearing off the line.

But the visitors restored their two-goal cushion on 63 minutes when Tash Stephens struck from a corner.

Southampton had more chances and played more fluid football in the second half.

Vokes saw a header saved from Whitton's free kick while the Pompey keeper saved from the same player at the expense of a corner. Tash Angel also forced a save, following a header from a Yeates cross.

Southampton head coach Simon Parker said: "We didn't perform to the level we have shown in other games this season, and that was disappointing.

"We are much better than the result suggests and the goals we conceded were from simple errors which are fixable.

"The performance in the second half was much more positive and we will focus on that going forwards.

"We played some penetrating football and defended more consistently which was pleasing.

"I still believe we can beat Portsmouth and hopefully we will meet them again this season and put the performance in that I know we can."

Southampton's Emma Pinner, above.

Southampton's Emma Pinner, above. Inset – Pinner challenges for a loose ball. Pictures by Stuart Martin.

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PINK INK

to Portsmouth!

Southampton's Laura Vokes pressurises the Pompey goalkeeper.

Southampton's Laura Vokes.

Southampton's Philippa Holden is tackled.

Southampton's Emma Pinner challenges for possession.

Southampton's Laura Vokes in action at AFC Totton.

Southampton's Cassie Thorp on the ball.

Aguero hits milestone

SERGIO Aguero equalled Manchester City's goalscoring record as the Premier League leaders saw off hard-working Burnley 3-0 at the Etihad Stadium.

The Argentina striker netted his 177th City goal from a controversially-awarded first-half penalty to set City on their way to a club record-equalling 11th successive win in all competitions.

Burnley proved tough opponents amid torrential rain for Pep Guardiola's free-flowing side but late goals from Nicolas Otamendi and Leroy Sane secured another three points.

Aguero's goal took him level with Eric Brook, who scored 177 for City between 1927 and 1939, but he will have to wait to claim the record outright after being substituted in the 76th minute.

It was his first appearance since breaking a rib in a car crash three weeks ago.

He actually had a quiet start to the game as City, despite dominating possession, struggled to break Burnley down.

The Clarets created the first serious opportunity when Chris Wood broke clear of Kyle Walker and raced into the box.

Ederson dived at his feet and quickly rose to prevent Scott Arfield following up with a shot but Wood was injured in the collision and was forced off soon after.

City played a patient game and gradually began to create chances. Bernardo Silva should have opened the scoring after Sane skipped around a challenge and pulled the ball back but the Portuguese shot straight at Nick Pope.

Controversy erupted after Pope reacted quickly to deny Kevin De Bruyne the chance to shoot. The ball ran free and Pope was adjudged to have brought down Bernardo Silva in the rush to regain possession.

Burnley contested that Silva had made the most of any contact and there was some arguing and shoving amongst players.

Aguero remained calm throughout the confusion and, having missed from the spot on his last appearance, made no mistake to put City ahead and equal the record.

The perceived injustice did spur Burnley on and Arfield had a shot deflected wide.

But City also reacted strongly. Aguero blasted wide and had two good efforts saved by Pope. The ball ran free to Bernardo Silva from one of them but James Tarkowski, not entirely intentionally, got his head in the way of a powerful shot.

City continued to dominate after the break, although Burnley retained their shape and did cause a few moments of anxiety.

David Silva threatened with a long-range drive that screwed wide while Walker delivered a low ball across the box that Aguero could not turn in.

The second goal eventually came after 73 minutes and from an unconventional route – for City at least – as Otamendi got forward for a corner. The Argentinian met Sane's cross with a powerful header that Steven Defour could not keep out.

Moments later the points were wrapped up as De Bruyne picked out Sane with a now typical defence-splitting through-ball. The German raced into the area and lashed a low shot past Pope.

Substitute Gabriel Jesus and Sane went close to adding to the score in the closing moments.

NON LEAGUE

Ozil will be 'unaffected' by gossip

ARSENE Wenger insists speculation linking Mesut Ozil with a January move to rivals Manchester United will not affect the Germany international.

Ozil is out of contact at the Emirates Stadium at the end of the season and has yet to agree fresh terms despite negotiations rumbling on for some months.

The 29-year-old has not been at his best this season and missed a good chance to double Arsenal's lead at Watford last weekend – only to see his shot saved and the Hornets go straight down the other end and equalise.

While team-mate Alexis Sanchez, who is also out of contract in 2018, was close to leaving the club in the summer there was very

Mesut Ozil.

little reported interest in Ozil.

Now he has been linked with a move to join Manchester United and link up again with Jose Mourinho – who he played under at Real Madrid before departing for north London.

Wenger said everyone at the club has to put up with such speculation and believes it will not make a difference to the collective approach – starting at Everton on Sunday.

"We have to deal with all kinds of speculation when the players are at the end of their contracts," he told arsenal.com.

"On the other hand, to be professional is to give 100 per cent as long as you are somewhere. For the rest, we came out many times and said that's the situation.

"The media can come out tomorrow and say that he extends his contract here. It will be exactly the same, it will not change anything. When you play the next game, commit 100 per cent."

Andy Drury

Ex-Spitfires aim for more shocks

FORMER Eastleigh pair Andy Drury and Jai Reason are targeting another FA Cup giant-killing after helping their current clubs progress this week.

Drury and Reason were among the Eastleigh scorers when they produced the best result in the club's history – winning 3-1 at League 1 club Swindon Town in last season's FA Cup first round replay.

Drury netted his first goal for over two months on Tuesday as the Kent club defeated lower division East Thurrock 3-0 in a fourth qualifying round replay.

That booked Ebbsfleet – managed by ex-Spitfire Darryl McMahon – a tasty home tie against Darren Ferguson's Doncaster Rovers.

Like Swindon were last season when they played Eastleigh, Rovers are two divisions ahead of an Ebbsfleet side who also include Drury's former Silverlake Stadium colleague Luke Coulson.

As for Reason, he jumped off the Maidstone subs bench to score his side's final goal in Tuesday's 3-1 replay win at lower division Enfield Town.

It was Reason's first goal of the season, and sealed a first round trip to League 2 club Cheltenham Town.

White Tiger Todd on cup trail again

Chris Todd (partly hidden, third left, blue top) helps Truro celebrate their win at Hampton. Picture: Truro FC.

Simon Carter

CHRIS Todd has become part of a history-making FA Cup run for the second time in three seasons.

Back in 2015/16, Todd masterminded Eastleigh's progress to the third round of the FA Cup for the first time.

Within a few months of replacing Richard Hill, Todd oversaw victories over Crewe and Stourbridge which set up a home tie with former winners Bolton Wanderers.

The Spitfires were within three minutes of a sensational success, before Darren Pratley levelled for the Championship club. Though Eastleigh took the lead in the replay, they eventually lost 3-2.

Now, two seasons on, Todd is part of the Truro City team that last weekend reached the first round proper for the first time in the White Tigers' history.

As a result of beating fellow Vanarama South side Hampton & Richmond 2-0 away, they became the first Cornish club to reach that stage of the FA Cup since Falmouth in 1969.

In one of the earlier rounds, Truro had beaten Sydenhams Wessex League side AFC Portchester 2-0.

The third draw was also kind to the White Tigers – they were handed a trip to Charlton Athletic, a Premier League club as recently as 2007.

Todd is currently player-assistant manager at Truro, and was an unused sub at Hampton.

He tweeted after the win: "Could not be happier for this group of history makers #historymakers #48yearsofhurt

AFC Totton fans will certainly remember Truro from the 2007 FA Trophy final. Even though the Cornish outfit were a division below the Stags in the non league pyramid, they still won 3-1 in one of the first games ever held at the new Wembley.

The subsequent years have certainly been eventful for Truro. They advanced all the way to the Conference South before being hit by financial problems. Chairman Kevin Heaney – who had bankrolled the club during their Vase-winning season, was declared bankrupt in August 2012 just a few months after the club had been hit by a winding-up petition lodged by HMRC for unpaid taxes.

A few weeks after Heaney had stepped down, Truro filed for administration.

Relegated from Conference South in 2012/13, they returned two seasons later by winning the Southern League Premier play-off final.

Last season they finished fourth bottom – only four points ahead of relegated Gosport – but this season has seen an incredible improvement.

Ahead of this weekend's round of games, Truro lay third in National League South – just a point behind leaders Braintree and eyeing promotion to the highest tier of non league football.

NON LEAGUE

EASTLEIGH 3 GATESHEAD 2

Spitfires splutter back into life

Wendy Gee

EASTLEIGH'S season is up and running again after a pulsating 3-2 home triumph over Gateshead this afternoon.

Richard Hill's men, desperate to turn the corner on three successive league and cup defeats, looked to have blown their chance of victory when their 2-0 lead was cruelly snuffed out with less than three minutes of normal time remaining.

But fortune favours the brave and Eastleigh's determination to keep going paid rich dividends deep into stoppage when sub Ben Strevens grabbed a glorious winner.

The Spitfires had been boosted by a welcome return for defender Ryan Cresswell, back after a frustrating year out with a knee injury.

He was given the captain's armband and slotted impressively into central defence in place of the suspended Andrew Boyce, while Ayo Obileye stepped in at right-back with Gavin Hoyte also serving a ban.

With Sam Togwell injured, Danny Hollands returned to a much-changed Eastleigh starting line-up, along with former Orient striker Paul McCallum and experienced duo James Constable and Gary McSheffrey.

After a morning of wild winds and heavy showers, the game kicked off in bright sunshine – and the Spitfires soon had smiles to match as they took the lead with just over five minutes gone.

Manager Richard Hill had spoken beforehand of the need for an early confidence boost, which duly arrived when top scorer Ben Williamson scampered onto Sam Wood's throughball and coolly fired left-footed across 'keeper Dan Hanford for his sixth goal of the season.

With spirits raised, the Spitfires continued to attack with confidence and were shaking their heads with disbelief that they didn't double their lead five minutes later.

The Gateshead goal led a charmed life as Obileye delivered from the right and first Hollands slid in with a shot that struck the woodwork and then Williamson smacked the loose ball against the bar.

They might have lived to regret that on 14 minutes when Russell Penn undid Eastleigh's defence with a terrific ball though to former Wrexham winger Wes York, but Spitfires 'keeper Ross Flitngot his side out of trouble.

Gateshead's Scott Barrow then fired narrowly over from range before some typically determined defending by Obileye got the Spitfires back on the front foot.

After another heavy cloudburst, good work by McSheffrey earned Eastleigh a corner on the left and, as the ball arrived low at the near post, Obileye wasn't too far away with a shot intended for the bottom corner.

Flitney then coped well again with another shot from distance, this time off the boot of Luke Hannant, before boos rang out around the Silverlake when popular left-back Michael Green was penalised – and then booked – by referee Richard Hulme for what had looked like a well-judged tackle on York just to right of the Eastleigh area.

But with Cresswell constantly organising and talking, Eastleigh were untroubled by the free-kick and went in at the break holding a richly-deserved 1-0 lead. So far so good for the Spitfires.

Half-time: Eastleigh 1 Gateshead 0.

There was nothing doing at the start of the second half until Callum Howe headed Cresswell's delivery into the path of McSheffrey who couldn't quite squeeze a shot over Hanford as a rainbow arched the sky behind the Gateshead goal.

McSheffrey kept plugging away, unleashing an audacious shot from 35 yards which was comfortably saved.

But the Spitfires finally found the pot of gold on 62 minutes with a delightfully worked second goal. McCallum and McSheffrey were both involved inside the area – the latter cutely laying the ball off to James Constable who curled a beauty past Hanford for 2-0.

That sparked a reaction from Gateshead with Theo Vassell hooking an effort off-target before Hannant tested the home defence with a whipped-in ball from the right.

The pressure told on 74 minutes when the visitors sliced Eastleigh's lead in half. Flitney fended off sub Jordan Burrows' shot, but Jordan Preston was first on the scene to bury the loose ball.

As Eastleigh responded, Vassell came close to netting an own goal as he defended a testing Constable cross from the right, but the ball went behind for a corner.

But gallingly for Eastleigh, the ex-Walsall defender soon found the net at the other end as the Spitfires' slender lead was cruelly taken away with less three minutes of normal time remaining.

It was the scrappiest of goals too, the ball taking a couple of ricochets amid chaos inside the Eastleigh area before Vassell had the easiest of jobs of slotting it over for 2-2.

Constable had a chance to make amends early in stoppage time, but frustratingly he couldn't keep his shot down.

But as the game ticked into its fifth minute of stoppage time Eastleigh's never-say-die determination paid off.

Mark Yeates cut inside the area from the left looking for an opening to shoot. He finally unleashed an effort towards the far bottom corner where fellow sub Ben Strevens was waiting to turn it over the line.

Still the drama wasn't over, but it was a happy ending for Eastleigh as Flitney turned Danny Johnson's low goalbound shot behind for a corner.

Eastleigh: Ross Flitney, Ayo Obileye, Michael Green, Danny Hollands, Ryan Cresswell, Callum Howe, Gary McSheffrey (Mark Yeates, 73), Sam Wood, Paul McCallum (Craig McAllister, 66), Ben Williamson (Ben Strevens, 83), James Constable. **Subs:** (not used) Chris Zebroski, Cavaghn Miley.
Referee: Richard Hulme.
Attendance: 1,597.

Young guns progress

EASTLEIGH'S young guns are through to the FA Youth Cup first round for the third time in four years.

They successfully cleared the third qualifying round hurdle with a 3-0 win at Wells City on Tuesday.

The teenage Spitfires acquitted themselves well in the first half and got their reward when Aaron Lobb opened the scoring shortly before the break.

Wells came out fighting but Eastleigh's second-half sub Tom Bearwish was to have a big bearing on the tie.

First he stood the ball up at the back stick for Lobb to nod in his second of the game and then, just three minutes later, Bearwish got across his man and thumped a shot in off the underside of the bar.

Satisfied Spitfires boss Luke Hardy summed up: "In the first half we dominated the game and didn't really give them any chances.

Tom Bearwish

"For the first 20-25 minutes of the second half, we were poor and nowhere near where we should be at.

"But the boys reacted well and, after the second goal, we relaxed a bit and started to manage the game a bit better and that was certainly key."

Eastleigh have not gone beyond the first round stage in recent years.

Last season they went down 5-0 at Portsmouth and in 2014/15 they lost 4-1 at Gillingham.

Chelsea are the current FA Youth Cup holders, having won the trophy for the last four years. In the last three finals they have beaten Manchester City.

This season they are aiming to emulate Manchester United's achievement of five straight wins – the Busby Babes having won between 1953-1957 inclusive.

NON LEAGUE

James Taylor

Taylor – already too late to get top six finish

MANAGER James Taylor believes it's way too late for Team Solent to press for a top-six finish in the Sydenhams Premier Division this season.

Indeed, given their sluggish start, he reckons it will be a good achievement just to break into the top half.

That, though, doesn't mean the Southampton Solent University outfit cannot challenge for silverware now that the new intake of students has arrived.

The club are still in the Southampton Senior Cup, a competition they hold dear to their hearts, and they have yet to enter the FA Vase having made it all the way through to the last 16 last term before bowing out to eventual winners South Shields.

There were signs that Solent won't be hanging around in the Wessex basement for long when they fired seven past Brockenhurst last Saturday, powered by four-goal new boy Hisham Kasimu.

"We're not getting carried away with one result, but if we can get a consistent squad together we could go on a decent run," said Taylor.

"It's a bit early to say (what we're capable of) but it's going to be hard to get into the top half this season because we're 14 games behind and the top sides are paying so much money that they should be up where they are.

"We're out of the League Cup and the Hampshire Senior Cup but that's no big deal because we end up with too many fixtures (including university games).

"Fortunately we've not entered the FA Vase yet and we're still in the Southampton Senior Cup."

Solent always knew results would suffer until their student contingent were in situ, but they have used the opportunity to bring some talented young players through.

Centre-back Mitchell Byrne was in the victorious starting line-up against Brock, as was 16-year-old left-back Ethan Taylor, the manager's son.

Craig Hunt, Josh Davies and Nathan Taylor (no relation) have also grabbed their chance to impress.

"They're all 16 and they've all done well," said boss Taylor. "Without the youth team we would have had trouble fulfilling first-team fixtures."

Goodship hits Terras hat-trick

BRANDON Goodship helped himself to a hat-trick as Weymouth celebrated their fifth Evo-Stik Premier triumph in as many games on Tuesday.

The former AFC Bournemouth young gun, who was dual-signed with Blackfield & Langley during their 2012/13 Wessex title-winning season, starred as the Terras overcame Merthyr Town 3-2 in driving rain at the Bob Lucas Stadium.

Poole-born Goodship, who joined Weymouth from Yeovil Town, has now plundered eight goals in his last five matches.

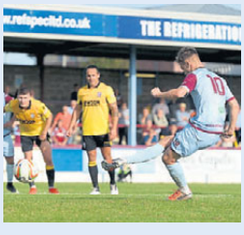
Weymouth boss Mark Molesley said of the 23-year-old: "We always knew Brandon would score goals, it's just about getting him in the right areas at the right time.

"We've done that and he's shown his quality.

"But there were a lot of stand-out performances. Collectively as a team we were fantastic.

"We made some good chances for Brandon. We knew if we made the chances we've got some good quality in the side to put them away.

"Everyone got their money's worth for coming out in the rain and not watching the Champions League!"



Brandon Goodship scores from the penalty spot.

The only way is up for new-look Solent

Wendy Gee

LOSING a player of Jesse Waller-Lassen's quality was never going to be easy for Team Solent.

But striker Hisham Kasimu's first start for the club suggests the only way is up for the Southampton Solent University side after a tricky start to the Sydenhams Premier campaign.

Going into last Saturday's home game against Brockenhurst, Solent had amassed a mere five points from their opening 13 league games.

For any other club, to suddenly pull a 7-0 win out of the bag would have been viewed as tantamount to a miracle.

But Solent are no ordinary Wessex League club.

With the university year not getting underway until late September, they traditionally start the season understrength.

But this term has been even tougher given that the likes of star man Waller-Lassen, Toby Adekunle and Pip Nolan have all moved on after finishing their university degree courses.

"It (the poor start) was expected at the end of a three-year cycle with so many players leaving," said Team Solent boss James Taylor.

"As well as losing Jesse, Toby and Pip, Ellis White and Lewis Pitts aren't playing at the moment and Matt Sheedy went to Brockenhurst.

"Ellis is busy at work and Lewis is in his last year at university and has too much studying to do.

"We'd almost planned for having a slow start to the season because we didn't know how long it was going to take for everyone else to come back and for the new lads to arrive."

If Kasimu's full debut against Brockenhurst is anything to go by, the new student intake looks very promising indeed.

The former Brentwood Town frontman weighed in with four of Solent's seven goals and skipper Curtis Thorn admitted: "I'd hate to play against him – he's so electric and so fast."

Team Solent's Tyrell Mitford, left.

Manager Taylor said: "I did know Hisham was coming to university, but he wasn't due to start until the end of September and he had a knee injury last year and didn't play too much.

"He's a friend of Ade's (Solent's Ade Olumuyiwa) and I don't know too much about his background, but he's a quick, powerful lad with a good build and he's a goal scorer. He puts himself about a bit and took his chances really well."

Also new in for Solent are Julian Stahler, a midfielder formerly with New York Red Bulls and New York Cosmos, and John Wallace, a right-back/midfielder who has been playing his football in Marbella, Spain.

And there could be more talent in what looks like a bumper Southampton Solent Uni crop.

"They had the first week of university games with all newcomers and we beat Southampton University 3-0," said Taylor.

"It looks like it's a good intake. Hopefully there will be more to come."

Not only did Kasimu score four times against Brockenhurst, he turned provider for ex-QPR frontman Tyrell Mitford, who has returned to the Solent fold from Evo-Stik South Premier strugglers Gosport Borough.

"It's good to get Tyrell back," said Taylor. "I was disappointed when he left.

"He went for the right reasons, sort of, but he's realised he's better off with us."

NON LEAGUE

Blackfield's Senior Cup romp has cruel sting in tail

Blackfield's Jamie White takes on Andover's Joe Wright

BLACKFIELD & Langley's Southampton Senior Cup win over Hedge End Town had a cruel sting in the tail.

The Watersiders were 9-0 up and cruising against their Southampton Senior One guests when Kane Daysh suffered a serious leg injury late in the game.

The club confirmed the morning after that the midfielder/defender had suffered a break to the tibia.

It's a hammer blow to the Watersiders who were due to visit Frimley Green in the FA Vase this afternoon and are currently top of the Sydenhams Premier Division on goal difference from Andover Town.

Daysh has made 15 appearances for the Gang Warily boys this season, weighing in with eight goals.

Ex-Saint Jamie White did the bulk of the damage against Hedge End, scoring four in the second round tie. Rudi Plummer got two and there was one apiece for Sam Griffin, Liam Robinson and Sam Poole.

Brockenhurst also made light work of booking their place in the SSC third round. The Badgers saw off Southampton Premier visitors Bishops Waltham 6-0 thanks to dual-signed Eastleigh youngster Ollie Dennett (2), Mitch Speechley-Price (2), Mark Barker and an own goal.

Andover set to take over at top?

Wendy Gee

ANDOVER Town's magnificent start to the 2017/18 campaign continues.

Glenn Burnett's men eased their way into the Russell Cotes Cup second round, overcoming Hampshire Premier League visitors Fleetlands 4-0.

Despite conceding four goals, Fleetlands' goalkeeper Josh Whitehead played a blinder and it was mainly due to his efforts that Andover did not reach double figures.

Town opened their account early when McAulie Stubbs headed home from a corner but, with Whitehead defiant, they didn't build on the lead until the second half.

Luke Dempsey made it 2-0 and, after a trio of point-blank stops by the inspired Fleetlands 'keeper, Dempsey struck again with a tap-in amid a goalmouth scramble.

The fourth goal arrived with 15 minutes remaining when Jason Silver converted Reece Rusher's assist.

Andover have no game this weekend, but host Ben Kneller's Hamble Club in the Sydenhams League on Tuesday (October 24, 7.45pm).

With leaders Blackfield & Langley preoccupied by cup games, at least a point against Hamble would steer the north Hampshire club into pole position.

The top two ended last weekend neck and neck on 34 points after Andover had won a thrilling showdown 5-3 against the Watersiders in front of a season's best 265 Portway Stadium crowd.

Zach Glasspool (blue) in action for Andover against Blackfield last weekend. Pix by Andy Brooks.

Blackfield remain top on goal difference, but Town – unbeaten in their opening 12 league matches – crucially have two games in hand.

The game ebbed and flowed between two good teams until the second-half dismissal of Blackfield defender Joe Byrne turned the tide Andover's way.

Byrne saw red for hauling back Alex Dockree when the Town man was through on goal.

Andover were 3-2 up at the time through Connor Cocklin and George Hallahan (2) and went on to punish the ten-man Watersiders with two goals in as many minutes from Zach Glasspool and Jason Silver.

Blackfield, who had led on three minutes courtesy of Connor Doe, levelled 2-2 through Franklyn Clarke and, just prior to Byrne's red card, had hit the bar through Jamie White.

Ex-Jester Chad joins Magpies

GOALKEEPER Chad Collins has joined Dorchester Town following the swift departure of fellow stopper Matt Cafer.

A well-known face on the local scene, 23-year-old Collins is a product of the AFC Bournemouth academy and has also had stints with Poole Town, Blackfield and Wimborne Town.

He will provide competition for Magpies No1 Chris Weale after Cafer agreed a switch to Evo-Stik South Premier rivals Farnborough having only been at the Avenue for one week.

Collins has recently enjoyed a spell with New Orleans Jesters, playing in the United States' National Premier Soccer League – the fourth tier of US football.

Cafer made solid debut for Farnborough in their 4-1 home win over Hitchin last weekend – even setting up one of the goals.

His long punt upfield was met by Perry Coles who duly wiped out Brett Donnelly's opener for Hitchin.

Ex-Eastleigh pair

Lewis Clarke

Jamie Cureton and Glen Southam also netted for Farnborough either side of a Keith Emmerson goal.

● FOUR was a magic number in the Sydenhams Wessex League last Saturday.

Four different players from the two divisions weighed in with four goals apiece.

Portland United's Lewis Clarke, Martin Schroeder of Shaftesbury and Team Solent new boy Hisham Kasimu all packed their shooting boots for Premier Division games against Baffins Milton Rovers, Newport IW and Brockenhurst respectively.

Team Solent banged in seven, Portland six and there were five apiece for Andover Town, Fareham and Shaftesbury.

It was a day jam-packed with goals in the Wessex top flight with no fewer than 45 scored in ten games.

Division One's top gun of the weekend was River Smith who bagged all four in Ringwood's 4-0 romp at Andover New Street.

NON LEAGUE

NON LEAGUE FIXTURES

Tuesday, October 24
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
AFC Fylde v Wrexham, Aldershot v Sutton, Bromley v Maidenhead, Chester v Barrow, Dagenham & Redbridge v Macclesfield, Dover v Woking, Eastleigh v Solihull Moors (free entry), Ebbsfleet v Torquay, FC Halifax v Maidstone, Guiseley v Boreham Wood, Hartlepool v Tranmere, Leyton Orient v Gateshead.
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Bath City v Dartford, Hampton & Richmond v St Albans.
EVO-STIK SOUTH
Premier: Banbury v Chesham, Basingstoke v Dorchester, Biggleswade v St Ives, King's Lynn v Bishop's Stortford, Kings Langley v Dunstable, Methyr Town v Stratford, Redditch v Kettering, Roytston v Farnborough, Slough v Gosport Borough, St Neots v Hitchin, Tiverton v Hereford, Weymouth v Frome.
West: Bideford v Bristol Manor Farm, Bishops Cleeve v Shortwood, Cinderford v Cirencester, North Leigh v Mangotsfield, Paulton Rovers v Wimborne, Swindon Supermarine v AFC Totton.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Andover Town v Hamble Club, Hamworthy Utd v Bournemouth Poppies, Lymington Town v AFC Portchester.
SWL Cup: Blackfield & Langley v US Portsmouth.
SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP
Sholing v Folland Sports Res.
PORTSMOUTH SENIOR CUP
Baffins Milton Rovers v Fareham Town, Fleetlands v Hayling Utd (at Hayling), Petersfield Town v Havant & Waterlooville.
BOURNEMOUTH SENIOR CUP
Downton v Poole Town.
RUSSELL COTES CUP
Andover NS v Bush Hill.

Wednesday, October 25
EVO-STIK SOUTH
West: Evesham v Kidlington, Larkhall v Didcot, Slimbridge v Taunton.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Alresford Town v Shaftesbury.

Thursday, October 26
PORTSMOUTH SENIOR CUP
US Portsmouth B v Horndean.

Friday, October 27
EVO-STIK SOUTH
West: Winchester City v Salisbury.

Saturday, October 28
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
Barrow v Aldershot, Boreham Wood v Bromley , Gateshead v Dover, Macclesfield v Eastleigh, Maidenhead v Dagenham & Redbridge, Maidenhead v Dagenham & Redbridge, Maidstone v Chester, Solihull Moors v AFC Fylde, Sutton v Ebbsfleet, Torquay v Hartlepool, Tranmere v FC Halifax, Woking v Guiseley, Wrexham v Leyton Orient.
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Braintree v Havant & Waterlooville, Chippenham v Chelmsford, Dartford v St Albans, East Thurrock v Hemel Hempstead, Hampton & Richmond v Bath City, Hungerford v Eastbourne Borough, Oxford City v Concord Rangers, Poole Town v Gloucester, Truro v Bognor Regis, Welling v Wealdstone, Weston-super-Mare v Whitehawk.
EVO-STIK SOUTH
West: AFC Totton v Didcot, Bideford v Slimbridge, Evesham v Mangotsfield.
FA TROPHY
First qualifying round:Dorchester v Basingstoke Town, Gosport Borough v Bristol Manor Farm, Hereford v Weymouth, Larkhall Athletic v Farnborough, Thame Utd v Wimborne Town.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Brockenhurst, Alresford v Blackfield & Langley, Amesbury v Bashley, Andover Town v Bournemouth Poppies, Bemerton HH v Baffins MR, Cowes Sports v Hamble Club, Horndean v Lymington Town, Portland v Newport IW, Shaftesbury v Petersfield, Sholing v Fareham, Team Solent v Hamworthy.
Division One: AFC Stoneham v Andover NS, Folland Sports v Fawley, Hythe & Dibden v Downton, Laverstock & Ford v East Cowes Vics, Ringwood v Romsey, Tadley Calleva v Totton & Eling, US Portsmouth v Verwood, Whitchurch v New Milton.
PORTSMOUTH SENIOR CUP
Paulsgrove v Paulsgrove Res.
NEW FOREST CARE HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Premier Division: Bush Hill v Colden Common, Clanfield v Hedge End Rangers, Fleetlands v QK Southampton, Hayling Utd v Overton, Infinity v Sway, Liphook v Winchester Castle, Liss v Locks Heath.
Division One: Michelmersh & Timsbury v AFC Petersfield, Netley Central v South Wonston Swifts, Upham v Lyndhurst.
Combination Cup, first round: Overton v Bush Hill, QK Southampton v Clanfield.
Combination: Headley Utd v Liphook, Winchester Castle v Fleetlands.

Super sub Scott boosts Bashley

Paul Morris

TWO late goals by super sub Scott Walters paved Bashley's path through to the semi-finals of the Bournemouth Senior Cup.

Paul Morris's Foresters progressed 3-2 at the expense of Sydenhams Premier Division rivals Hamworthy United.

Bash 'keeper Joe Coombes, having his first start since his move from Bemerton, made a number of sharp first-half saves, while Lewis Ross was a menace up top.

But it was Hamworthy's Dan Cann who spurned the clearest opportunity, missing an open goal, and the Hammers also had the misfortune of losing captain and centre-back Nathan Walker with a foot injury.

In the second half Cann atoned for his earlier miss by scoring from the spot and sub Max Butler made it 2-0 with a header from a corner.

But the tireless Ross replied with a penalty for Bash, having been upended while bearing down on goal, and the Foresters played their trump card by hailing Walters off the bench.

The sub's nose for goal changed the game.

With eight minutes remaining Harry McGrath's driven shot hit the post and was gobbled up by Walters for 2-2.

Three minutes later McGrath's angled cross sparked confusion in the Hammers' defence and Walters was on hand to coolly drive home the winner.

Portchester run riot against sorry Cowes

Bobby Scott during his Saints academy days.

Wendy Gee

FORMER Winchester City boss Ian Saunders presided over a victory of landslide proportions on Tuesday night.

Saunders, just back from a work trip abroad with the Army, was welcomed home to AFC Portchester with a jaw-dropping 12-2 win over Cowes Sports in the Sydenhams League Cup.

The omens didn't look great when the Royals fell behind to a Connor Furmidge goal inside 40 seconds but, come half-time, they were 5-1 up.

Cowes' Jimmy Wykes was red-carded for handball inside the area, allowing Portchester to make it 6-1 from the penalty spot right at the start of the second half. And although John McKie pulled one back, the Royals went goal crazy against the ten-man Islanders.

Former Blackfield & Langley and Sholing marksman Alex Baldacchino reaped a bumper crop of six goals – five of them in the second half – while Bobby Scott weighed in with a hat-trick, including two penalties.

Joe Bye, Garry Moody and Olly Searle were also on target.

Ex-Saints academy striker Scott tops the Sydenhams Premier scoring charts with an impressive 22 goals from 19 appearances and Baldacchino's six-goal spree showed that he too is capable of causing havoc.

Ominously for Wessex League defences, Royals' manager Saunders said: "Our two strikers are still not fully fit, but are hitting a purple patch."

As a schoolboy, Scott was Southampton's top scorer at under-18 level during the 2008/09 season with eight goals, and he went on to join the Saints Academy for 2009/10.

A move to Leyton Orient's Academy followed in 2010/11 and, after making ten appearances for the Os, he returned to the south coast with Havant & Waterlooville in March 2011.

Scott's other clubs include Blackfield & Langley and Moneyfields.

Cowes' neighbours Newport IW had better luck in the SWL Cup, knocking out last season's beaten finalists Baffins Milton Rovers 2-0 through Emerson Tattersall and Tom McInnes.

But there was a shock result at Andover New Street where Sydenhams Premier highfliers Lymington Town were stunned 1-0.

Jazz Beavis plundered the 85th-minute winner for the Wessex One underdogs after great work from Jesse Todd.

SYDENHAMS PREMIER DIVISION
Top scorers
22 - Bobby Scott (AFC Portchester)
18 - Jamie White (Blackfield & Langley)
17 - Zach Glasspool (Andover Town)
15 - Joel Jackson (Baffins Milton Rovers), Mitch Speechley-Price (Brockenhurst)
14 - Nathan Lynch (Hamble Club), Tom Sands (Alresford Town)
13 - Sami Makhloufi (Bournemouth Poppies)
12 - Harry Beckley (Amesbury Town), Sam House (Lymington Town), Harry Jackson (Horndean), Dan Mason (Sholing), Simon Woods (Fareham Town)
11- Miles Everett (Horndean), Mike Gosney (Andover Town)

NON LEAGUE

Ex-Saint Davies takes on first managerial role

Kevin Davies in action for Saints in 2003 at Millwall.

FORMER Saints striker Kevin Davies has been appointed the new manager of Southport in the National League North.

Davies, who scored 25 goals in 125 appearances for Saints across two spells, has signed a two-and-a-half year deal with the Merseyside outfit in what is his first managerial appointment since hanging up his boots in September 2015.

"I am delighted to be appointed as the new Southport FC Manager," Davies said. "This is a great opportunity and the timing is right for me to step into management.

"Over my 22-year playing career I was privileged to work under some fantastic managers, including four who managed England.

"My career was built on hard work, passion and a strong desire to do whatever it takes to win a game of football.

"There is lots of hard work ahead and it is a challenge that I am relishing.

"This is a very exciting time to be involved with Southport FC with new investment to develop the stadium and infrastructure.

"Football is about creating memories and I, along with my assistant John Dreyer, players and staff, will be working tirelessly to take the club forward in a positive direction."

Pitch woes cost Eastleigh £200k

Wendy Gee

EASTLEIGH'S rearranged fixture against Chester is being switched to a Saturday, subject to approval from the Vanarama National League.

The game had been due to take place on Tuesday, October 31 following the postponement of the original September 30 fixture due to pitch problems at the Silverlake Stadium.

But with both sides exiting the FA Cup over the weekend, it has freed up a new date of Saturday, November 4 (3pm).

That will come as good news to Chester fans for whom a midweek trip might have proved difficult.

As a gesture of goodwill, Blues supporters have already been promised free admission by Eastleigh to make amends for their wasted journey south last month.

Tickets purchased for the postponed game will be accepted at the turnstiles on the day

Solving the sub-soil drainage problem that caused the postponement of the Chester game has resulted in another major financial outlay for Eastleigh.

That, coupled with the price of laying a brand new pitch over summer, is estimated to have cost the Spitfires in the region of £200,000.

Writing in last Saturday's matchday programme, chairman Stewart Donald said: "We have invested heavily in the pitch over the summer and we certainly didn't plan for any further major expenditure in this area.

"The work carried out over the summer was not a contributing factor to the affected area.

"We sought the advice of specialists who concluded that our problems stemmed from below the surface.

"Extensive work has since been carried out to rectify their findings."

Undeterred by that setback, Eastleigh are ploughing on with ground improvements with the new stand, alongside the main blue stand, really starting to take shape.

"On a more positive note, the new stand is progressing well and I hope to be able to provide a completion date in the near future," Donald confirmed.

"Windows and interior walls have started to be installed, allowing the finer details of the interior to be finalised."

Fans – old and new – can witness the transformation of the Silverlake Stadium this Tuesday (October 24, 7.45pm) when the club host a FREE ENTRY National League fixture against Solihull Moors.

Club CEO Mark Jewell explained: "These games go a long way to promote the club to potential new supporters that may not otherwise know about us or don't realise quite what we have going on down here in Stoneham Lane.

"I think we all understand why we do these promotional games now and can appreciate that this is an essential activity to expand the club's popularity and to ultimately create a substantial base for the football club for many years to come."

Eastleigh's new stand taking shape.

No longer a no-love-lost relationship

UNDER the old Eastleigh regime, it's fair to say there was no love lost between the Spitfires and their south coast rivals Havant & Waterlooville.

But an awful lot of water has flowed under the bridge in the ten years since Ian Baird's controversial move from Westleigh Park to Stoneham Lane.

These days there is much mutual respect between the clubs – as reflected in the build-up to Eastleigh's FA Cup tie against Hereford last week when the Hawks agreed to step in and help if the Silverlake pitch had been deemed unplayable.

Had Eastleigh's playing surface failed a Thursday pitch inspection, the contingency plan was to stage the tie 20 miles along the coast at Westleigh Park.

Praising the Hawks for their co-operation, Spitfires boss Richard Hill said: "Havant & Waterlooville have been fantastic.

"I rang Lee Bradbury

Lee Bradbury.

(H&W manager) and he said to give him five minutes and he'd speak to his chairman (Derek Pope).

"They got back to me and said 'yeah, no problem'.

"Lee Bradbury and the Havant chairman were absolutely brilliant.

"There's professional management at both Eastleigh and Havant.

"I get on well with Bradders and so does Hessy (Hill's assistant Andy Hessenthaler) and Reidy (Eastleigh secretary/head of recruitment Paul Reid)."

An official EFC statement said: "The club would like to thank Havant and Waterlooville Football Club for their full support during this period – a contingency plan to play the fixture at Westleigh Park was in place had the Silverlake pitch been deemed unsuitable.

"Dealings with Havant and Waterlooville have been extremely positive over the past week, which reiterates our good relationship with the club."

NON LEAGUE

Ex-pro Kelly takes on a tough task

MIKE Kelly has taken on the tough task of rectifying Newport IW's poor start to the Sydenhams Premier Division season.

Kelly, a former pro, has agreed to step in as interim first-team manager at St George's Park, assisted by Andrew Rimmer.

A club statement confirmed: "Mike Kelly, who has agreed to come in and help the club, will take charge of The Port's senior team with immediate effect.

"Mike joins Newport having experience as a professional player with Charlton Athletic and Millwall, along with his very successful managerial experience with Newport over the years."

Goalkeeper Gary Streeter and midfielder Darren Powell had been in caretaker charge since Andy Sampson's departure at the end of August.

The vastly experienced pair will continue to help out, but will mainly fall back into their playing roles.

Kelly saw the size of the task ahead of him as the Islanders suffered a 5-0 bruising at Shaftesbury last Saturday.

It was their fifth successive league defeat, leaving them one off the foot of the Premier table with just seven points from 13 games.

Having missed a penalty awarded against Powell, Shaftesbury led by a single Malachi Benjamin goal at the break.

But the floodgates burst open in the second half as attacking midfielder Martin Shroeder went on a four-goal rampage.

Shroeder, who picked up the man-of-the-match award, received high praise from his club who credited him with giving a "masterclass in midfield mastery."

Shaftesbury's Facebook report added: "The opposition were sure we had an extra player in the middle, such was his dominance. If you missed the game, you missed watching an artist at work.

"The whole squad once again put 100 per cent into the 90 minutes and, unlike against Andover on Tuesday (a 2-1 defeat), they got the result their work-rate deserved."

*Newport got a much-needed win under their belts on Tuesday evening, beating last season's beaten finalists Baffins Milton Rovers 2-0 in the Sydenhams League Cup third round.

Second-half goals from Emerson Tattersall and Tom McInnes booked the Islanders a quarter-final berth.

Thousands take part in Bulls' FA cup win

MORE than 650 hearty Hereford fans roared the Bulls on to FA Cup glory at Eastleigh last Saturday. But interest in the Bulls' progress was not confined to just those inside the Silverlake Stadium.

The phoenix club – born from the ashes of famed FA Cup giant-killers Hereford United – reported much outside interest in the Bulls' latest Cup antics.

● Radio Hereford FC had 1,650 listeners tuning into the game from around the world.

● The interactive text service saw over 2,000 fans log in at some point during Hereford's 2-1 win.

● There were over 35,000 visits to the official Hereford FC webpage throughout the day.

● Videos on the official Hereford FC YouTube channel were viewed over 10,000 times within 24 hours of full time.

● Tweets on the official Hereford FC Twitter account racked up 520,000 impressions.

Bulls boss: I thought we could get a result

Wendy Gee

Hereford's Garyn Preen, a former Saints academy winger, is stretchered off with a head injury. Below – happy fans

BOSS Pete Beadle was proud but not entirely surprised by Hereford's FA Cup giant-killing antics at Eastleigh last weekend.

Inspired by the proud Cup history of their forerunners Hereford United, the Bulls pulled off one of the shocks of the fourth qualifying round with a 2-1 win at the Silverlake.

It was the furthest the re-formed club had ever been in the competition and beating a National League side packed with ex-pros was no mean feat for Beadle's Evo-Stik South Premier promotion seekers.

But, with Eastleigh struggling for form in non-League's top flight, the Bulls boss had an inkling that an upset was on the cards.

"When the draw came out, it was one that we were happy with and felt we would come here and perform," he said.

"I felt if we performed well enough, we were capable of winning.

"We've got good players here with good football brains and they play the game with heart.

"Yes, in the second half it was backs-to-the-wall stuff and it wasn't quite as pretty, but we stood firm.

"They never cut us open from open play and we said at half-time that if Eastleigh were going to get back into the game (from 2-0 down), it was going to be from a set-piece.

"And the one time we switched off, we got caught.

"Symo (Mike Symons) lost his man and the fella (Callum Howe) heads it in.

"Eastleigh are a big, strong side with lots of experience in their team, but sometimes when you come to places like this, you need a bit of luck and your players to perform for you and they did."

Since the new Hereford club was born in 2014, the Bulls have gained successive promotions as champions of the Midland League and the Southern One South & West.

They have settled well in the Southern Premier season too, winning eight and drawing two of their opening 11 games prior to visiting the Silverlake.

"For the first time in a long time we were underdogs (at Eastleigh)," said Beadle.

"If you had asked anyone hand on heart if we could get a positive result here, about 95% would say no.

"But they stuck with us and we've rewarded them with a first round draw."

The one sour note for Hereford was a head injury to Garyn Preen following a hard but fair second-half challenge by Spitfires' right-back Gavin Hoyte.

Winger Preen – who scored Hereford's second goal – received treatment for ten minutes before being stretchered off and taken to hospital where he was given the all-clear following a scan.

"One or two players said he was convulsing a little bit, so it was a nasty impact," added Beadle.

"He also got a mouthful of grass apparently, so that shows you how hard he hit the ground.

"It was a heavy challenge, but it wasn't a foul.

"The boys didn't react to it as a foul, they were more concerned about Garyn, which was good to see and not to get involved in some of the antics they were throwing about."

Hoyte was dismissed near the end of the game – the second Eastleigh player to see red after Spitfires defender Andrew Boyce had walked on 32 minutes for bringing down Symons as last man.

"The straight red can happen at any time. Mike just got in front of him and the lad has made a genuine attempt to get the ball," said Beadle. "But the second one (Hoyte's red card) was just reckless and not necessary."

Hereford had broken the deadlock in the 14th minute when a deflected Mike McGrath free-kick cruelly beat Eastleigh 'keeper Ross Flitney.

Preen made it 2-0 and, although the ten-man Spitfires threw the kitchen sink at their visitors in the second half, the Bulls charged on to a first-round tie at home to AFC Telford United of the National League North.

NON LEAGUE

Sholing spirit is 'second to none'

Wendy Gee

PROUD manager Steve Blackburn hailed the togetherness of Sholing's under-18 youth team as "second to none" as they booked their ticket to the FA Youth Cup first round proper with a dramatic penalty shootout win at Aldershot Town.

Connor Pearson brought the young Boatmen back from behind to make it 1-1 after 90 minutes, but they looked to be heading out of the competition as they trailed 2-1 with the end of extra-time approaching.

Harry Butler had other ideas, however, equalising with 118 minutes on the clock to take a marathon tie to penalties.

And it was the Sholing boys who came out smiling, buoyed by some crucial saves from goalkeeper Aaron Whitmarsh and Harvey Wright's coolly-taken winner.

"Wow! What a night!" smiled Blackburn.

"I could not be more proud of every single one of them. The togetherness of the team is second to none.

"They work hard as a group, play for each other and have a 'never say never' attitude. They don't know when they're beaten and will fight to the end."

"We went into the match with a game plan. We knew Aldershot would be a very good, skilful footballing side who would look to keep possession. We wanted to contain them for the first 15 minutes, keep the game tight and maybe frustrate them a little.

"I knew if we did this, the players' confidence would grow and they would start to play football the way I know they can.

"I would like to say a massive 'thank you' to the travelling fans. The atmosphere they created was electric and helped the lads believe in themselves.

"As for the players, they deserve all credit. Every one of them played their part."

Having been caught on the counter-attack by Shots' George Root in the 50th minute, Sholing got back on level terms when Pearson was quickest to react after a free-kick had been parried by home 'keeper Ryan Hall.

Montel Brown restored the Shots' lead in the ninth minute of extra-time and it remained that way until the 118th minute when Callum Waughman's corner was gloriously headed home by Butler to keep the Sholing flame burning.

And so it went to penalties where James Johnson, Bradley Johnson, Jean-Luc Ramdin and Harvey Wright saw the Boatmen through 4-3.

Sholing's youth chairperson Carly Kinsey labelled it "an absolutely fantastic achievement and thoroughly deserved."

She added: "They matched Aldershot throughout. Their resilience and determination shone through.

"Most of these players have come through our youth section and have been with us for six seasons which proves what we are doing at the club in terms of development of players is working."

Greg Dickson, the Boatmen's secretary, added: "The atmosphere was up there with the achievement at Wembley in 2014 (when Sholing's men won the FA Vase)."

Sholing: Aaron Whitmarsh, Connor Pearson (Cameron Ross 89), James Johnson, Owen Royl [c], Harry Butler, Tommy Crump, Tanaka Madzvamutse (Jamie Staples 58), Callum Waughman, Bradley Johnson, Frazer McLean (Harvey Wright 86), Jean-Luc Ramdin.
Subs not used: Ollie Shapland, Lewis Floyd

Sholing under-18s in party mood, above. Below – Harry Butler celebrates Sholing's equaliser.

Simon Browne

Rich picking for Portland boss Simon

DORCHESTER Town's reserve team boss Rich Robson is linking up with Portland United as assistant manager to Simon Browne.

Robson will fill in for current Portland No2 Carl Mutch, who is reducing his involvement with the Sydenhams Premier Division champions owing to work commitments.

Browne believes Robson, who remains manager of Dorchester's second string, will "add a different dynamic" to Portland's coaching network.

"Obviously I know Rich from our time at Dorchester together," said Browne. "He's very ambitious to progress in football.

"He's only young, he's keen and he brings a different dynamic to our training nights and to games.

"It's an opportunity for him to experience a bit more first-team football.

"He's got a degree and he's done his coaching badges so he's got some letters behind him in terms of what he's done."

Cherries' branch out into Brock

AFC BOURNEMOUTH'S academy is introducing a new ID (talent identification) Centre at Brockenhurst College.

The centre will cater for players in the under-9, 10 and 11 age-groups with the aim of helping them progress from grassroots football into Cherries' full academy programme.

Brockenhurst will become the fourth venue in which AFC Bournemouth currently operates an ID Centre, the others being at Dorchester, Blandford and Portsmouth.

Since the inception of the programme in 2015, 40 players have progressed into academy.

Bournemouth's academy staff will be host a trial day at Brockenhurst College on Friday, October 27.

● See the club's website for details.

Lymo's Zak plays while banned

SYDENHAMS Wessex Premier high-fliers Lymington Town could face sanctions after allegedly fielding an ineligible player.

The Hampshire FA confirmed charges had been issued regarding Zak Pickett's involvement in Lymington's 2-1 win over table-topping Blackfield & Langley earlier this month, *writes NEIL PERRETT.*

Pickett condemned the Watersiders to a first league defeat of the season when he netted the decisive second goal at the Sports Ground.

However, the former Romsey Town defender had been sent off after receiving a straight red card in Lymington's 3-2 defeat at Sholing seven days previously.

Rules – implemented by the Wessex League at the start of this season – state all suspensions will start seven days from the date of the offence. Previously, bans had kicked in after 14 days.

Zak Pickett.

A statement from Hampshire FA read: "We can confirm that the player has allegedly played whilst under a suspension.

"Charges have been issued and we are awaiting a response from the club and player following which a disciplinary commission will be convened to consider this matter further."

Should the charge be proven, Lymington could face a points deduction and receive a fine, while the Wessex League also has the power to order a replay.

Moneyfields were stripped of the Wessex Premier title last season – following an unsuccessful appeal – having been docked three points after being found guilty of fielding a player under suspension.

NON LEAGUE

A night BTC will

Simon Walter

Ben Rowthorne of Saints wins a head during their 6-0 Southampton Senior Cup win over BTC at Staplewood.

IT was the best night of their lives.

BTC Southampton made history on Tuesday, when they became the first amateur team to play against Saints in the Southampton Senior Cup since the 1970s.

Not since Saints used to enter an 'A' team have the club played in the SDFA competition.

But they have done so this season to celebrate its centenary.

They were in the hat for today's third-round draw after their 6-0 win against BTC.

BTC's players arrived at Saints' 'Staplewood Campus' to play on a pitch next to the complex's iconic dome.

Alongside it was a stand most Conference South clubs would be proud to have.

It provided shelter from heavy rain for the fifty or so BTC supporters that had been given complimentary tickets.

An academy training session on the 3G pitch alongside had restricted access to any more than that.

As BTC took in Staplewood's grandeur, they were given a shock when they saw the teamsheet.

"We didn't know the team we'd be playing before we arrived so we were a little shocked when we saw just how strong they were," said manager Steve Byres.

Saints U23s had fielded several first-team players – including James Ward-Prowse, Sam McQueen, Pierre Hojbjerg, Jan Bednarek and Matt Targett – for their match against Newcastle United on Monday.

So it was not an U18s team that BTC found themselves playing against.

"They had nine regular U23s against us, a very strong line-up," said Byres. "It was an unreal experience for me and the lads.

"The pitch was an absolute carpet, the players have never played on a surface like it. We just tried to take in every moment."

BTC got off to the worst possible start. Striker Dan N'Lundulu, 18, netted the third-minute opener.

The France-born former England U16 international headed in Tyreke Johnson's cross at the near post after his first effort had been parried by BTC's excellent goalkeeper, George Taylor.

The tie was effectively settled two minutes later, when midfielder Tom O'Connor's deflected strike from the edge of the area went in off the left-hand upright.

"At 2-0 down after five minutes the game plan went out of the window," continued Byres, whose team conceded two more before half-time, both scored by the masked Armani Little.

"We got to grips with them and I couldn't fault the lads in the second half," continued Byres.

"At 2-0 down so early on a lot of teams would have hit the self-destruct button.

"It could have been a tonking but we kept going.

A masked Armani Little scores.

"Our fitness levels are obviously nowhere near theirs and it showed but we didn't stop running."

In the opposite dug out to Byres was Danny Butterfield, the U18s assistant coach, alongside former Saints goalkeeper Kelvin Davis, now the club's Football Development Executive.

"They were very welcoming and

NON LEAGUE

never forget

Saints' Ollie Cooke puts pressure on a BTC opponent.

Tyreke Jonson, above right.

Dan N'Lundulu, left and above, in action against BTC Southampton. All pics courtesy Southampton FC.

as interested as anyone to know whether one of our players, Jordan Freeman, had become a dad," said Byres.

Yes, centre-half Jordan's girlfriend was in labour while he did his best to keep the score down, impressing with several blocks in the penalty area.

The 24-year-old, a self-employed electrician, typified the gap between the teams, having left home in Sholing at 5am that morning to work in London.

By lunchtime the next day, the 24 year-old was dad to Theo Bobby Freeman, who weighed in at 6lb 7oz.

His girlfriend, Jess Tweney, had gone into labour on the morning of the game!

"I rushed straight back from London at 8am," he said. "I spent the day helping her and offered to stay but she wouldn't let me, she knew how much it meant to me to play against Saints.

"So I gave my phone to our manager to make sure he gave me any updates. When I rang her at half-time the contractions were happening every four minutes. At full time they were every three minutes.

"Even the Saints manager was asking if the baby was born yet!

"A couple of the goals deflected off me but we were buzzing with how we played so after the game we went to The Pilgrim Inn in Marchwood.

"It was there I got the call from Jess's mum saying they were taking her to hospital and that they'd meet me there!

"I got to the Princess Anne at 10.45pm and Theo arrived at 1.07pm on Wednesday afternoon – it was a long labour!"

There were plenty of other memorable moments for BTC.

Number ten Ryan Wilkins enjoyed a good run deep inside the Saints half in the first half and Lewis Frost, who had scored a screamer in the 4-1 win against Athletico Romsey in the previous round, had a couple of long-range efforts on target.

But their man of the match was goalkeeper George Taylor, who made good saves from Richard Bakary, Armani Little and Harlem Hale either side of a stunning diving stop to keep out a Tyreke Johnson strike.

Johnson fired in the fifth in the 73rd minute and after BTC's Ryan Lowbridge had a good strike blocked in the area, substitute Will Ferry scored the sixth with the last kick of the match.

BTC were in more familiar surroundings at their home ground in Stoneham Lane today, for a league cup tie against Braishfield. But their big night at Staplewood will live long in the memory.

Saints U23s: Adam Parkes, Richard Bakary, Ollie Cook, Aaron O'Driscoll, Will Wood (Jake Vokins 76), Tom O'Connor (Harry Hamblin 67), Armani Little, Harlem Hale, Tyreke Johnson, Dan N'Lundulu (Will Ferry 45). Unused subs: Alex Cull (GK), Christoph Klarer Booked: Ferry.

BTC Southampton: George Taylor, Billy Taylor, Lewis Frost, Dom Yeandle (capt), Joe Glasspool, Jordan Freeman, Tom Page (Jamie Blackwell 58), Ryan Lowbridge, Stefan Williams (Sean Tollevey 48), Ryan Wilkins, Billy Evans (Alex O'Hara 45).
Unused sub: Jack Freebody

Robin: Please be patient!

PORTLAND United chairman Robin Satherley has urged fans to be "patient."

After winning the Sydenhams Premier title last season, the Blues began this weekend in 11th spot after a hot and cold start to the campaign.

Satherley said: "I am aware and fully understand that there is some disappointment amongst our regular supporters with our current league position.

"We would obviously like to be higher up the league especially following our tremendous 2016/17 season. However, I would ask them to be patient as manager Simon Browne endeavours to strengthen the current squad of players.

"It was always going to be difficult to replicate what we achieved last season, the task made even more difficult by a number of senior players departing the club.

"The Wessex Premier is very competitive, with some clubs having more financial resources than a number of clubs in higher leagues.

"I am confident our fortunes on the pitch will steadily improve as the season progresses."

Robin Satherley

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Newcastle sale: Q and A

NEWCASTLE owner Mike Ashley sparked a flurry of speculation when he let it be known that the club was formally up for sale.

Having seen the sportswear tycoon attempt to offload the business he bought for £134.4m in 2007, supporters remain sceptical that the Magpies will be in new hands by Ashley's Christmas target.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at some of the issues surrounding a potential sale.

Does Ashley really want to sell?

Those closest to Ashley insist that he does, but only to the right buyer and that means someone who can provide the kind of finance to take the club to the next level. Ashley admitted as the summer transfer window drew to a close that he could not provide manager Rafael Benitez with the funds he wanted to rebuild his squad without additional financial backing and his decision to sell is perhaps further

Mike Ashley

confirmation of that. For that reason, he is open to accepting a structured payment plan to allow any new owner to spread the burden while investing in the team.

How much does Ashley want?

That is the £350m, £380m or £450m question, depending on who you believe. Insiders insist the owner has not set an asking price, but will consider offers which satisfy both his business sensibilities and his requirement that the club is placed into the right hands, a claim which may prompt raised eyebrows from his critics.

Is the club attractive?

The Premier League's global profile and financial strength remain hugely attractive to buyers.

Continued on facing page

SAINTS

Saints career of

Simon **Carter**

JAY Rodriguez was this weekend making his first St Mary's return since leaving in the summer.

The striker cost a then club record £7m when he arrived on the south coast from Burnley in July 2012.

During his five years at Saints, he made his senior England international debut and was the club's top scorer in 2013/14.

But that was also the season which ended abruptly with a horror knee injury at Manchester City in early April.

After that, sadly, Rodriguez was never really the same player again.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at his time at St Mary's.

2012/13

Rodriguez made his league debut for Saints on the opening weekend of the season, starting their 3-2 loss at defending champions Manchester City.

He had to wait until his eighth league outing for his first goal, the consolation in a 2-1 St Mary's loss to Tottenham.

Indeed, that was the only league strike in his first 15 league appearances for Saints.

Rodriguez's first goals for the club had come in a League Cup second round tie at home to Bristol City.

He opened the scoring on the half hour and added both his and Saints' second 12 minutes from time via the penalty spot.

Rodriguez started Mauricio Pochettino's first game in charge, at home to Everton, on the bench. But he was recalled for the Argentine's second game at Old Trafford. There, he made a great start by firing Saints into a third minute lead.

Wayne Rooney quickly levelled, though, and the same player grabbed a first half winner.

Rodriguez was to eventually play the best football of his club career under Pochettino, and signs of what was to come appeared in the spring of 2013.

The player netted in three successive Premier League games – a 3-1 home win over Liverpool, a 2-1 St Mary's success against Chelsea and a 2-0 win at a Reading side now under the management of the man who signed him for Saints, Nigel Adkins.

Rodriguez ended his first season at Saints with 24 league starts, plus 11 off the bench. He scored six PL goals – the joint highest at the club alongside Jason Puncheon behind Rickie Lambert (15).

Rodriguez's total of nine league and cup goals, though, made him the second highest scorer overall.

2013/14

Rodriguez started his second season at Saints so well he was called into Roy Hodgson's senior England squad for the third international break of the campaign.

Three goals in four league games – singles against Swansea, Fulham and Stoke – helped catapult him into a squad which also featured team-mates Adam Lallana and Rickie Lambert.

Rodriguez made his England debut against Chile at Wembley, starting the friendly but being replaced on 57 minutes by Andros Townsend.

The visitors won 2-0, with debutant Fraser Forster – then at Glasgow Celtic – twice beaten by Alexis Sanchez, then of Barcelona.

Buoyed by winning his first senior cap, Rodriguez bagged five goals in his next six Saints league matches.

That run included a first minute opener at Stamford Bridge and a brace in a 3-0 Boxing Day win at Cardiff that resulted in Malky Mackay being sacked the following day.

Another impressive run in front of goal began in early March.

The winner at Selhurst Park was followed by a strike in a 4-2 home win over Norwich.

Rodriguez then helped Saints take a 2-0 lead at White Hart Lane – where Spurs hit back to win 3-2 – before two more goals followed in a superb 4-0 crushing of Newcastle.

That was one of the finest per-

SAINTS

mixed emotions

Jay Rodriguez scores one of his two goals for Saints against Cherries last December. Inset above – in action on his senior England international debut four years ago next month.

formances of the Pochettino era, with Rodriguez, Lambert, Lallana, Luke Shaw, Dejan Lovren and Jack Cork all starting.

Little did Saints fans know, but those players would never appear together in a Saints win again.

Rodriguez suffered his horror knee injury a week later at the Etihad Stadium, and by the time he next played for Saints the other five players previously mentioned had been sold.

Before any of them had left St Mary's, though, Pochettino himself had quit.

Only 20 minutes of Saints' game at Manchester City had passed when Rodriguez fell to the Etihad surface, clutching his knee.

After netting 17 goals in 39 league and cup appearances for Saints in 2013/14, Rodriguez had suffered a rupture to his anterior cruciate ligament, a diagnosis which once upon a time was considered a career-ending injury.

Nevertheless, the injury came when he was playing the best football of his life and was in contention for a place iN England's World Cup finals squad for Brazil.

A statement on the Southampton FC website two days later said: "This (the injury) will keep him out of action for six months."

That was a bit of wishful thinking, as it was to be 15 months before Rodriguez was next seen in a Saints shirt in a match situation – on a pre-season tour of Switzerland.

2015/16

Rodriguez made his competitive return to action on August 6, 2015 – coming on as a 72nd minute sub in a 2-0 Europa League play-off win against Vitesse in the Netherlands.

His league return came on the opening weekend, when he started the 2-2 draw at Newcastle.

His first goal since late March 2014 came in the Europa League play-off tie with unfancied Danes Midjtylland.

After falling behind to a goal from ex-Saints academy midfielder Tim Sparv, Saints needed Rodriguez's second half penalty to avoid an embarrassing St Mary's loss.

As it was, they suffered an embarrassing defeat in the second leg instead.

Rodriguez converted another penalty a month later, part of a brace as Saints hammered MK Dons 6-0 away in the third round of the League Cup.

But he was to only play three more games before suffering another injury setback – this time related to nerve damage in a foot which required surgery.

Rodriguez was out of action from mid October through to early April, remaking one start – in a 4-2 win at Aston Villa – and three sub appearances.

In all, he made 16 league and cup appearances in his fourth season at Saints, scoring three times.

2016/17

Rodriguez was on the verge of being loaned out by Saints when he came off the bench against Sunderland in the club's third game of the new PL season.

Introduced in the 75th minute by Claude Puel with Saints trailing, Rodriguez equalised nine minutes later – his first league goal since March 2014.

As a result, Puel decided to keep the striker at St Mary's.

Due to the manager's rotation policies, though, Rodriguez was unable to get what he really needed – a decent run of games in a bid to get back to full fitness.

He came off the bench to score against Sparta Prague in Saints' first Europa League group game, before netting twice in a pre-Christmas 3-1 Premier League win at Bournemouth.

That brace at Dean Court contributed to Rodriguez's six-goal seasonal tally from 34 appearances.

Of those, 16 were starts – nine of which were in the league – and 18 were off the bench.

The player's 35th and final Saints goal came in his penultimate appearance – the 2-1 victory at Middlesbrough on May 13.

Since Saints returned to the top flight in 2012, nobody has scored more for the club.

Rodriguez ended his five years at St Mary's having made 81 starts plus another 45 outings as a sub.

Newcastle sale: Q and A

from facing page

West Brom and Saints have attracted Chinese money in the last year or so and Farhad Moshiri previously bought a significant shareholding in Everton. The spending power of the likes of Manchester City and neighbours United, as well as Chelsea, make it difficult to compete at the top end of the table, but closing the gap to the big boys is attainable. Newcastle's huge fan-base and not too distant European pedigree makes them an attractive proposition despite a major trophy drought stretching back to 1969.

If Ashley's reign does end, how will it be viewed?

Ashley's decade at the helm may not have brought any meaningful silverware – two Championship titles do not register in that column – but it has sparked plenty of headlines. Two relegations, the club's treatment of

Alan Shearer

managers Kevin Keegan, Alan Shearer and Chris Hughton, the decision to re-name St James' Park, the Wonga sponsorship deal and a questionable transfer policy have sparked a simmering feud with fans with a fifth-place finish and one season of European football providing brief respite. The appointment and retention of manager Benitez may prove to be the most significant achievement of his tenure, but his departure would be mourned by few.

Why are fans sceptical?

Past experience. It went up for sale for the first time in September 2008 in the wake of furious protests over Keegan's departure over transfer dealings with Ashley claiming he could not take his children to matches because of fears for their safety. He took it off the market three months later after failing to find a buyer, but offered it for sale once again in May 2009 in the wake of relegation, only to change his plans five months later.

Hamilton is on verge of F1 history

LEWIS Hamilton has one hand on his fourth Formula One world championship after establishing a 59-point lead over Sebastian Vettel.

Hamilton, 32, will get his first shot at Sunday's United States Grand Prix.

Here, the Sports Pink look at the key talking points ahead of the 17th round of the season.

Hamilton ready to be an all-time great

Hamilton stands on the brink of history, but the Englishman has taken a typically laid-back approach to Sunday's pivotal race. Hamilton will become the first British driver to win four championships – one more than Sir Jackie Stewart – and join only Michael Schumacher (seven), Juan Manuel Fangio (five), Alain Prost and Sebastian Vettel (both four) as having more than three – if he outscores Vettel by 16 points. There are various permutations to Hamilton winning the title, but the simplest one is this: if he is victorious in Austin, Vettel must finish at least fifth to take the title race on to next week's Mexican GP.

Vettel's season has imploded following two DNFs

Lewis Hamilton

from his last three races, and he would need another rotten weekend here for Hamilton to prevail. Hamilton, however, has excelled at the Circuit of the Americas – winning four of the five races staged here.

Brit of a bad show

Hamilton may be gunning for his fourth world championship, but for the first time in his decade-long career he will head into this weekend's GP as the only British driver on the grid. Jolyon Palmer's axing by Renault – to pave the way for Carlos Sainz to join the French team from Toro Rosso – leaves Hamilton as the standalone Brit in Austin. You have to go back to the 2005 Monaco GP for the last time there was a sole representative from Britain on the grid. Jenson Button was completing the second of a two-race ban after his BAR team were adjudged to have broken the rules, leaving David Coulthard as the only competing British driver.

Continued on facing page

NOSTALGIA

Saints' post-war

Peter **Howard**

LIONEL Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are just four hat-tricks aways from matching Southampton Football Club's entire post-war total of three-goal heroes.

The sublime pair have tallied 92 hat-tricks between them during their glittering careers so far and are about to catch Saints up as they race for 50.

Real Madrid and Portugal star Ronaldo has 48 for club and country, while Barcelona's Messi, having netted a treble to send Argentina to the World Cup finals recently, has 44 to his name.

Ronaldo's first came in a 6-0 bashing of Newcastle United while playing for Manchester United in January 2008.

That was his only treble for United, though, and has netted 42 of them for Real, with the other five coming on international duty.

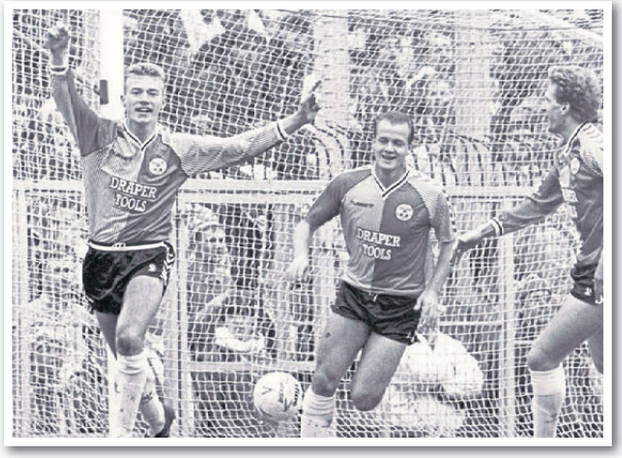
Messi, who has 39 for Barca and five for Argentina, got his first hat-trick in 2007 in a 3-3 draw with rivals Real Madrid.

Saints, meanwhile, currently have 96 hat-trick heroes during the post-World War Two era, with Doug McGibbon netting the first in September 1946 and the last of those scored by Sadio Mane in May 2016.

At present, Derek Reeves, who scored 173 times in 311 games for Saints in the 1950s and 60, is drawn with George O'Brien, another famous goal-scorer of that era who netted 180 goals in 281 matches at The Dell, on 10 trebles apiece.

Behind those two, Matt Le Tissier is on eight, while Ron Davies and Mick Channon have six each and Rickie Lambert is on five.

Rickie Lambert converts a penalty en route to a hat-trick against Brighton in 2011. Right – Sadio Mane celebrates one of his rapid hat-trick goals against Aston Villa in May 2015.



Alan Shearer celebrates one of his hat-trick goals against Arsenal in 1988

Andrew Surman completes his only Saints hat-trick against Barnsley.

NOSTALGIA

hat-trick heroes

Saints' post-war hat-tricks ...

Eric Day 3
20/09/1947 3-0 W Chesterfield (H)
25/04/1953 6-1 W Blackburn (H)
17/09/1955 3-1 W Crystal Palace (H)

Doug McGibbon 1
04/09/1946 4-0 W Swansea Town (H)

George Lewis 1
FA Cup
11/01/1947 5-1 W Bury (H)

Charlie Wayman 2
23/10/1948 6-0 W Leicester City (5, H)
05/11/1949 5-0 W Hull City (H)

Eddy Brown 1
29/08/1951 5-2 W Nottm Forest (H)

Ted Bates 1
29/03/1952 4-2 W Bury (H)

Frank Dudley 1
18/10/1952 3-3 D Doncaster (H)
27/12/1952 5-3 W Fulham (H)

John Flood 1
02/09/1953 4-0 W Newport (H)

Johnny Walker 1
21/08/1954 6-4 W Brentford (H)

John Hoskins 1
31/08/1957 5-1 W Gillingham (H)

Derek Reeves 10
14/09/1957 5-0 W QPR (H)
01/03/1958 3-1 W Shrewsbury (A)
05/04/1958 5-0 W Watford (H)
23/08/1958 6-1 W Mansfield Town (4, A)
12/09/1959 4-2 W Southend (A)
19/09/1959 5-1 W Mansfield (H)
10/10/1959 5-1 W Swindon (4, H)
FA Cup
16/11/1957 6-1 W Walton & Hersham (4, A)
09/01/1960 5-1 W Manchester City (4, A)
League Cup
05/12/1960 5-4 W Leeds United (5, H)

Charlie Livesey 2
13/09/1958 6-1 W Hull City (4, H))
14/02/1959 3-1 W Wrexham (A)

George O'Brien 10
17/09/1960 4-2 W Brighton (4, H)
16/09/1961 4-1 W Luton Town (A)
31/10/1962 5-3 L Cardiff City (H)
27/04/1964 6-1 W Rotherham (H)
21/11/1964 6-1 W Rotherham (H)
26/12/1964 5-0 W Plymouth (H)
27/02/1965 4-0 W Charlton (4, H)
04/09/1965 6-2 W Bury (4, H)
FA Cup
07/10/1961 7-1 W Ipswich (H)
13/02/1963 5-0 W York City (H)

George Kirby 2
03/11/1962 6-0 W Middlesbrough (H)
24/08/1963 6-1 W Charlton (4, H)

Terry Paine 3
01/10/1963 3-2 W Rotherham (A)
01/04/1964 6-4 W Derby County (H)
05/12/1964 3-3 D Derby County (H)

Martin Chivers 5
25/04/1964 5-1 W Bury (A)
21/11/1964 6-1 W Rotherham United (H)
18/09/1965 9-3 W Wolves (4, H)
27/12/1965 5-3 W Cardiff City (A)
League Cup
29/09/1965 3-0 W Rochdale (H)

Norman Dean 1
05/02/19665-2 W Portsmouth (A)

Ron Davies 6
14/01/1967 4-4 D Leicester City (H)
08/04/1967 4-0 W Burnley (H)
13/05/1967 6-2 W Aston Villa (4, H)
02/09/1968 6-2 W Chelsea (4, A)
16/08/1969 4-1 W Manchester United (4, A)
League Cup
14/09/1966 4-3 W Plymouth Argyle (H)

Mick Channon 6
25/09/1974 4-0 W Oxford United (A)
08/02/1975 3-0 W Britstol Rovers (H)
27/09/1975 4-0 W Portsmouth (H)
18/12/1976 3-3 D Blackpool (H)
FA Cup
17/02/1976 4-0 W West Brom (H)
League Cup
08/10/1974 5-0 W Derby County (H)

Phil Boyer 3
29/09/1979 W 4-0 Derby (H)
09/10/1979 4-1 W Crystal Palace (H)
29/04/1980 5-2 W Bristol City (H)

Steve Moran 4
19/03/1983 4-1 W Manchester City (H)
28/04/1984 8-2 W Coventry City (H)
04/05/1985 3-0 W Ipswich Town (H)
05/10/1985 3-1 W Watford (H)

Danny Wallace 3
28/04/1984 8-2 W Coventry City (H)
FA Cup
13/01/1986 3-1 W Middlesbrough (A)
Simod Cup
08/11/1988 3-0 W Stoke City (H)

Colin Clarke 2
23/08/1986 5-1 W QPR (H)
04/10/1986 4-1 W Newcastle United (H)

Matt Le Tissier 8
07/03/1987 4-0 W Leicester City (H)
27/02/1990 4-1 W Norwich City (H)
17/03/1990 3-3 D Wimbledon (A)
08/05/1993 4-3 L Oldham (A)
14/02/1994 4-2 W Liverpool (H)
09/04/1994 5-4 W Norwich (A)
League Cup
05/10/1994 4-0 W Huddersfield Town (4, H)
ZDS Cup
29/01/1992 3-1 W Chelsea (A)

Gordon Hobson 1
11/04/1987 4-2 W Manchester City (A)

Alan Shearer 1
09/04/1988 4-2 W Arsenal (H)

Nicky Banger 1
League Cup
09/10/1990 3-0 W Rochdale (H)

Brett Ormerod 1
League Cup
02/10/2002 6-1 W Tranmere (H)

James Beattie 1
27/10/2002 4-2 W Fulham (H)

Dexter Blackstock 1
League Cup
27/10/2004 3-2 W Colchester (H)

Andrew Surman 1
17/02/2007 5-2 W Barnsley (H)

Marek Saganowski 1
31/03/2007 6-0 W Wolves (A)

Stern John 1
08/12/2007 4-0 W Hull (H)

Rickie Lambert 5
20/03/2010 3-0 W MK Dons (A)
10/09/2011 3-2 W Nottingham Forest (H)
19/11/2011 3-0 W Brighton (H)
25/02/2012 3-0 W Watford (A)

Hat-trick heroes. From left – Matt Le Tissier on his way to a hat-trick at Norwich, Marek Saganowski scores at Wolves, and Stern John nets against Hull

US GP talking points

from facing page

Hartley set for F1 debut

The aforementioned Sainz started alongside Pierre Gasly for Toro Rosso at the last round in Japan, but neither will be racing for Red Bull's junior team this weekend. Sainz was already signed up to Renault for next year, but the French team have drafted him in with four races of this season still remaining to help them secure fifth in the constructors' championship. Gasly, meanwhile, will be competing in Japan as he bids to clinch the Super Formula title. Russian Daniil Kvyat, dropped by Toro Rosso for the last two races, has been brought back into the fold, while he will be joined by Brendon Hartley. The 27-year-old, a Le Mans 24 winner and World Endurance Champion, will be the first New Zealander on the grid for 33 years.

Kubica and Di Resta chance to shine

Robert Kubica and Paul di Resta were handed an audition by Williams this week in a bid to prove they are worthy of a 2018 seat.

Robert Kubica

Kubica, whose GP career appeared all but over after he partially severed his right arm in a 2011 rallying crash, completed a "productive" day of testing at the Hungaroring on Tuesday. Brit Di Resta, Williams' reserve driver who deputised for Felipe Massa at the Hungarian GP, was given his chance at the same track 24 hours later. Both drivers are in the frame to replace Massa at Williams next term.

Buffer and Co to light up US GP

Formula One's American owners have added some razzmatazz to their first GP on home soil with famous boxing announcer Michael Buffer and eight-time Olympic champion Usain Bolt both part of the star-studded line-up. Buffer will introduce all of the drivers on to the grid, while Bolt will send Hamilton and Co off on the formation lap. Justin Timberlake and Stevie Wonder will also both perform here.

Where next for Jose?

JOSE Mourinho has indicated he wants at least one more job in management before he retires.

The Manchester United boss is committed to the Red Devils until 2019 and there has been no suggestion he plans to depart even then, having secured the job he has long desired.

But further down the line Portuguese boss Mourinho will seek another challenge.

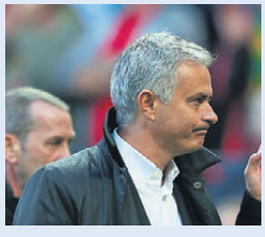
Here are four possibilities he may fancy later on in his career.

ENGLAND

Mourinho has previously said he was close to accepting the England job in late 2007, after Steve McClaren's team failed to qualify for the World Cup. It would have been a major coup for the Football Association at the time, although FA chiefs presumably thought landing Fabio Capello instead was a similarly impressive appointment. He has cited the stop-start life of an international manager as a reason he did not take the position, preferring the day-to-day life of club management.

PARIS ST GERMAIN

French giants PSG were praised by Mourinho in his interview with French television channel TF1, saying there was "something special" happening at the Ligue 1 club. With Qatari owners for whom money may be little object, a manager in Mourinho's league might be considered attainable in the future. The job might be considered a step down from United and all their



Jose Mourinho

history, though. And even in five or 10 years' time, or whenever Mourinho is next seeking employment, that may remain the case.

PORTUGAL

This might be the job above all others that Mourinho has his eye on in the long term. He told Yahoo three years ago that it was the role in which he hoped "to end my career". Considering that at 54 years old he looks settled at United, it might be that Mourinho makes that his final job in club football before returning home at a suitable stage to lead his country's national team.

BUNDESLIGA

Mourinho has enjoyed spectacular success in the Premier League, Serie A and LaLiga, as well as in Portugal with Porto. Peers such as Carlo Ancelotti and Pep Guardiola have stopped off at Bayern Munich during their illustrious careers, and the German game is in a strong place. If that remains the case, then further down the line perhaps the Bundesliga may hold some appeal. There would certainly be no rush in terms of Mourinho's age. After all, 72-year-old Jupp Heynckes is currently bossing Bayern.

NOSTALGIA

Jay was aiming

Simon **Carter**

JAY Rodriguez this weekend made his first return to St Mary's since leaving in the summer.

Now playing for West Bromwich Albion, the striker was aiming to add his name to a huge list of ex-Saints who have come back to haunt their former employers with a goal.

Here the Sports Pink looks at the names Rodriguez was aiming to join, starting almost half a century ago ...

Martin Chivers

The striker had scored 13 goals in 24 top flight games for Saints in 1967/68 when he moved to Tottenham in early January.

The fee was around £80,000, with Spurs' Frank Saul a £45,000-rated part of the overall deal.

Chivers came up against his former club at White Hart Lane in early April, and it was very much a day to forget for Ted Bates and co.

Tottenham romped to a 6-1 win with Chivers netting the third goal just before the hour mark.

Chivers would prove to a regular thorn in Saints' side in the years to come.

He netted singles against Saints in January 1971 – though Saints still won 3-1 at White Hart Lane – December 1972 and November 1973. Then, in April 1974, he struck twice as a 3-1 Spurs win sent Saints a step closer to an eventual relegation.

When Saints returned to the top flight ahead of the 1978/79 season, the fixture computer gave them an opening day trip to Norwich.

The Canaries won 3-1, and Chivers was among the scorers!

Rod Wallace

Signed by Leeds at the end of the 1990/91 season, Wallace won the last ever Division 1 title with the Yorkshire club in his first season at Elland Road.

He had to wait for his first goals against Saints, but they arrived at The Dell in October 1994. It was 1-1 with 83 minutes gone, but Wallace settled matters with a quick-fire brace.

Kevin Davies

Released by Saints boss Gordon Strachan on a free transfer at the end of 2002/03, Davies' career was rescued by Sam, Allardyce at Bolton.

He scored 10 times in his debut season for Wanderers, with his final goal coming at St Mary's in April 2004.

Main pic – Peter Crouch celebrates scoring the winner against Saints last month. Above – Tim Sparv is mobbed after scoring for Midjtylland.

Saints were leading until the 77th minute thanks to a Marian Pahars strike. But then Kevin Nolan levelled and within 60 seconds Davies had pounced for what proved to be the winner.

Neil Shipperley

The striker who joined Saints for £1.25m from Chelsea in early 1995 lasted just a year and a half at The Dell.

It took him a while to score against Saints, but the goal duly came in George Burley's first home game as manager shortly after Christmas 2005.

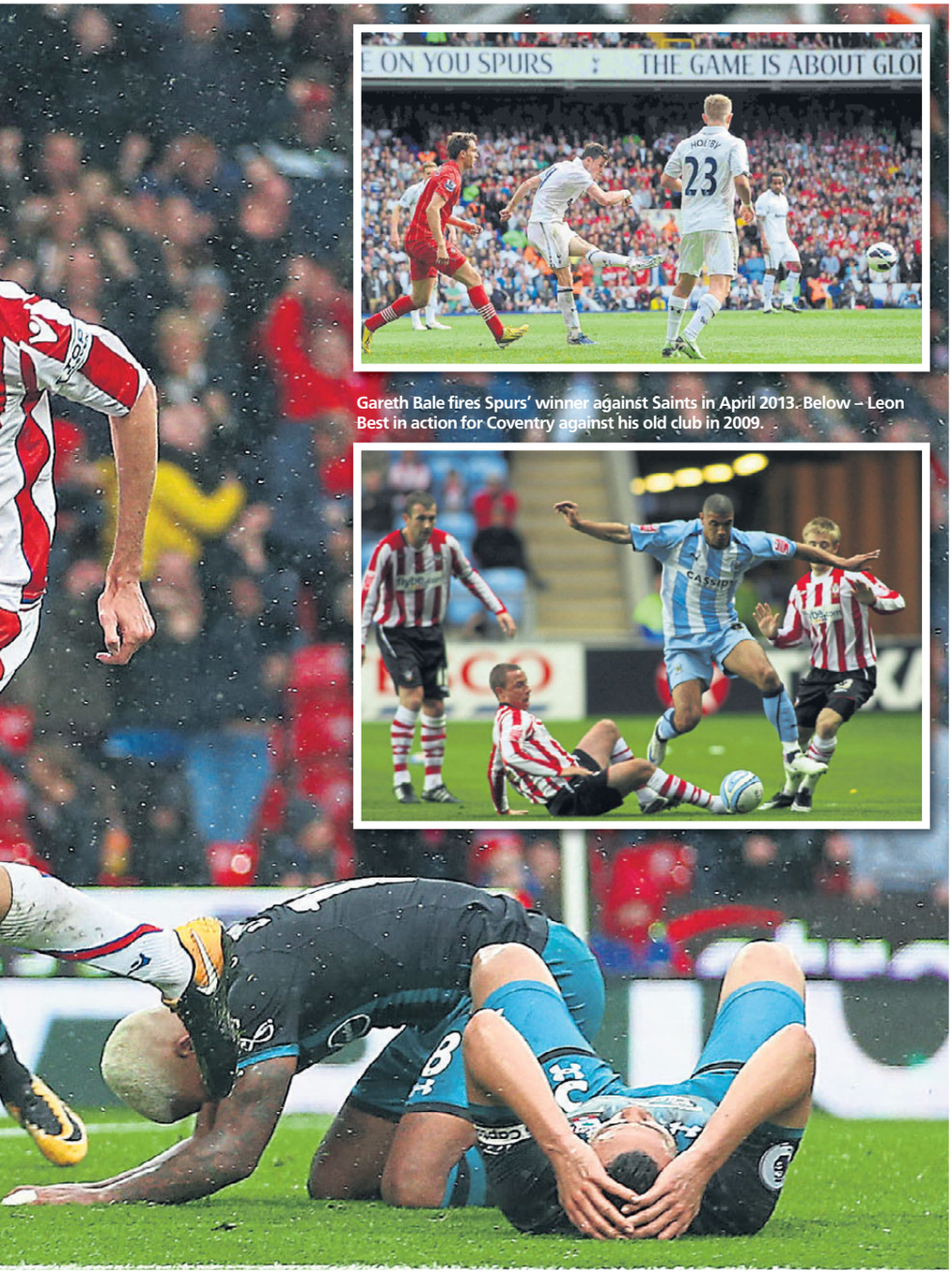
Shipperley, then playing for Sheffield United in what was to prove his penultimate season in professional football, grabbed the only goal 10 minutes into the second half.

James Beattie

Having left Saints to join Everton for £6m early in the January 2005 transfer window, Beattie was back at St Mary's within a month to score his first league goal for his new club on his fourth appear-

NOSTALGIA

to join big club!



Gareth Bale fires Spurs' winner against Saints in April 2013. Below – Leon Best in action for Coventry against his old club in 2009.

ance.

It didn't take him too long to silence the fans who had just a few weeks earlier been cheering him – opening the scoring in only the fourth minute.

Saints hit back to lead through Peter Crouch and Henri Camara and were set for a crucial win ... until Marcus Bent lashed home a 90th minute leveller.

And those two dropped points would prove incredibly costly in the final reckoning ...

Fitz Hall

The defender was sold to Crystal Palace ahead of the 2004/05 season, rejoining his former Oldham boss Iain Dowie at Selhurst Park.

Hall had netted just once in 33 appearances prior to Saints' trip to Selhurst Park for the penultimate game of the 2004/05 Premier League season.

He made it two goals in 34 outings with a 16th minute opener, and the eventual 2-2 draw did little to help either side's relegation prospects. Indeed, both went down a week later.

Kevin Phillips

One of many players sold after Saints slipped into the Championship in the summer of 2005. He joined Aston Villa for £750,000 but lasted just one season before moving again to West Bromwich Albion. There he netted 22 goals in 43 appearances in his first term, 2006/07, including one against Saints in a 1-1 draw at The Hawthorns in February 2007.

Phillips later signed for Birmingham and, on his fourth Blues appearance, came off the bench in the 76th minute of a Championship game at St Mary's – and within 60 seconds had scored the winner!

Dexter Blackstock

The striker left St Mary's in August 2006, joining Championship rivals QPR for around £600,000. The following month, in only his eighth outing for the Rs, he was back at his former club and cancelling out Jermaine Wright's third minute opener. Ray Jones later hit a winner for the visitors.

Two years later, in September 2008, Blackstock struck twice in a 4-1 win against Saints at Loftus Road – the day Ollie Lancashire was sent off in the first half of his Saints debut.

Ricardo Fuller

Another striker who left Saints in August 2006, joining Stoke for £500,000 – a tidy profit on the £90,000 Harry Redknapp had paid Pompey for him 12 months earlier. In his second season in the Potteries, 2007/08, Fuller netted 15 goals as Stoke won promotion to the Premier League. One of them came on his second St Mary's return in August 2007, but the hosts still won 3-2.

Leon Best

Left Saints in the summer of 2007, turning down a new contract and joining Coventry for £600.000. In his second season at The Ricoh, 2008/09, he scored just once in his first 21 games – that was against Saints in a 4-1 win in the midlands.

Bradley Wright Phillips

Left St Mary's after three generally frustrating years in the summer of 2009 to sign for Plymouth.

Moved onto Charlton in the January 2011 transfer window, and within two months had struck the Addicks' 86th minute leveller against Saints at The Valley. Radhi Jaidi had put promotion-bound Saints ahead.

Matthew Mills

Sold to Manchester City for £200,000 in January 2006, the centre half had moved onto Leicester by the time he returned to St Mary's in January 2012. He was to net just once in 31 appearances for the Foxes in 2011/12 – almost inevitably, for Saints supporters, it was in Leicester's 2-0 win.

Continued on page 28

Saints' early kick-off at Wembley

THE Premier League has opted against staging fixtures on Christmas Eve.

December 24 falls on a Sunday this year and there had been speculation matches could be played on that date.

However, in announcing the broadcast selections for the Christmas period, the Premier League said there would be no games that day

A Premier League statement read: "There will be no Premier League fixtures on Sunday, December 24.

"Four matches have been selected for live UK coverage that weekend, with three to be televised on Saturday, December 23."

Arsenal's match with Liverpool at the Emirates Stadium will take place on Friday, December 22.

Everton v Chelsea, Burnley v Tottenham and Leicester against Manchester United will all be televised on Saturday, December 23, the latter with a 7.45GMT kick-off.

The Premier League matches selected for broadcast by Sky Sports and BT Sport announced on Thursday were for the period from December 2 to 28, covering six rounds of matches.

Twenty four fixtures were selected for live coverage in the UK.

Tottenham v Saints will kick off at 12.30pm at Wembley on Boxing Day

The Premier League insisted supporters' feelings on festive fixtures were taken into account to reduce travel times for traditional Boxing Day and New Year's Day games.

Premier League executive chairman Richard Scudamore said: "We appreciate this is the peak time for supporters attending and watching the Premier League.

"With matches scheduled on Christmas weekend for the first time in 11 years, the process of selecting games for live broadcast has been a more complex one than usual and I would like to thank our broadcast partners and clubs for their co-operation and flexibility.

"When selecting matches, the broadcasters are using the rights that we the Premier League and the clubs have sold them, and they should therefore not be criticised for doing so."

Two matches were selected for live broadcast on Boxing Day: Tottenham v Saints at 1230GMT and Liverpool v Swansea at 5.30GMT.

All other games that day kick-off at 3GMT, while Newcastle v Manchester City has been switched to 7.45GMT on December 27 and Crystal Palace v Arsenal to 8GMT on December 28.

The broadcast selections for the final round of December fixtures and the month of January will be announced "no later" than October 27, the Premier League said.

Returning to haunt Saints

from page 27

Kenwyne Jones

Sold to Sunderland for £6m in August 2007, the Trinidad & Tobago international was playing for Stoke City when he netted after 16 minutes in a December 2012 Premier League thriller. Saints were already ahead at the time through Rickie Lambert, and the visitors moved into a 3-1 lead – only for the Potters, despite seeing Steven N'Zonzi red carded, hit back to level.

Peter Crouch

A Jedi Master at scoring against Saints in recent years.

The striker left St Mary's after the club's relegation in 2005, joining then European champions Liverpool for £7m.

Crouch had to wait until May 2013, though, for his first goal against Saints – scoring for Stoke on the final day of the season at St Mary's.

The following term, he repeated the feat – Stoke drawing again in February 2014 on the south coast – and last season he was at it again, netting the final day winner at St Mary's in what proved to be Claude Puel's last game in charge of the hosts.

Only last month, Crouch poached another goal against Saints – this time the winner in the Potteries.

Nathan Dyer

The winger, who left Saints to join Swansea midway through 2008/09, scored just three goals in the 2012/13 Premier League campaign – including one at St Mary's in a 1-1 draw in November 2012.

Kenwyne Jones

Tim Sparv

It's not only well known ex-Saints who have scored against their former employers.

One man who never appeared for the first team also netted in August 2015 – and it was an incredibly costly goal for Saints to concede.

Midfielder Tim Sparv, a former academy colleague of the likes of Bale and Walcott, lined up for Danish underdogs Midtjylland when they arrived at St Mary's for a Europa League play-off first leg tie.

Possibly to no huge surprise, Sparv gave the visitors a half-time lead – a goal which proved to be his only one in 44 appearances that season!

Though Saints hit back to force a 1-1 draw, Midtjylland heaped embarrassment on Ronald Koeman and co with a 1-0 second leg victory in Scandinavia.

Jason Puncheon

The former Saints winger had scored just once in 33 league and cup games for Crystal Palace ahead of the final game of the 2015/16 Premier League season. Needless to say, he grabbed the Eagles' consolation in a 4-1 beating. He then netted again in the FA Cup final, but Manchester United triumphed 2-1.

NOSTALGIA

Classic Saints v

SAINTS were hosting West Bromwich Albion this weekend, and here the Sports Pink travels down memory lane to recall some of the best league clashes between the two clubs on south coast soil.

Stern John celebrates scoring his first goal against West Bromwich Albion at St Mary's in October 2007.

August 26, 1967

Saints 4 West Brom 0

This was Saints' second home league game of their second season in the top flight.

In the first, a 3-2 win against Manchester City, Ron Davies had scored twice.

Here he repeated the feat after Terry Paine had opened the scoring just before half-time.

Davies converted a penalty after a foul on Paine and, after John Sydenham had made it 3-0, the Welsh striker completed the scoring with a trademark header.

November 9, 1974

Saints 1 West Brom 0

Another penalty for Saints, and this time Mick Channon converted it to give Saints all three Division 2 points.

Channon, Peter Osgood and Bobby Stokes were on target at The Hawthorns the following February as Saints completed a double over the Baggies.

Despite that, West Brom finished sixth – seven places higher than Saints.

August 16, 1975

Saints 3 West Brom 0

Everyone remembers the final game of Saints' 1975/76 season.

Well, hands up who can remember the first one?

It was this 3-0 Dell success over the Baggies, where Nick Holmes got Saints' season off to a flier with a sixth minute opener.

Mick Channon doubled that lead on 17 minutes, and the same player headed in from close range in the second half.

This was another season of completing a league double over West Brom, with David Peach and Channon on target in a 2-0 win at The Hawthorns in December.

The Baggies must have been truly sick of Saints when they later crashed 4-0 at The Dell in an FA Cup fifth round replay.

The sight of Channon must have been making them feel even sicker – he struck a hat-trick in that game!

February 21, 1981

Saints 2 West Brom 2

Best remembered for a stunning right-footed shot from defender Ivan Golac which put Saints ahead in this Division 1 encounter.

The Yugoslavian didn't score many goals for the club – just four in 168 appearances – which is why this one lives in the memory of those lucky enough to witness his Archers Road screamer.

West Brom hit back to lead 2-1 through goals from two of the men who helped make the late 70s and early 80s a golden period for the club – Bryan Robson and Cyrille Regis.

Steve Moran levelled for Saints on the hour mark.

The Baggies had finished third in the top flight in 1978/79 and two seasons later finished fourth – just two places above Lawrie McMenemy's Saints.

December 18, 1982

Saints 4 West Brom 1

Having beaten Stoke and Birmingham in their previous two league games, Saints completed a hat-trick of wins against Midland clubs.

It was 1-1 at half-time – Cyrille Regis having cancelled out Danny Wallace's opener.

Saints took control in the second period, with David Armstrong and David Puckett both heading in either side of a Steve Moran shot.

NOSTALGIA

Baggies clashes

Right – Stern John cheekily back-heels the winning goal against West Brom in October 2007.

Right – Saints score in their 3-0 win over West Brom on the opening day of the 1985/76 season.

Right – referee Robert Madley at the centre of things after sending off Gaston Ramirez and Marc-Antoine Fortune in April 2013.

March 3, 1985

Saints 4 West Brom 3

The sort of entertaining, goal-laden affair that The Dell crowd were regularly treated to throughout the 80s.

David Armstrong's opener was quickly followed by Carl Valentine's equaliser, before Danny Wallace restored Saints' lead just before half-time.

Ian Baird then seemed to have put Saints in total control with a brace.

But in the end the hosts were given a nervous finale after Baggies striker Garry Thompson netted in the 80th minute, and again five minutes later.

January 1, 1986

Saints 3 West Brom 1

Saints welcomed in a new year with goals from Glenn Cockerill, Danny Wallace and David Armstrong.

Imre Varadi replied for a Baggies side who ended up relegated from the top flight.

They didn't know it at the time, but this would be their last ever visit to The Dell.

November 6, 2004

Saints 2 West Brom 2

One of the results which was to help drive a relegation dagger through Saints' hearts.

A home game against fellow Premier League strugglers was very much a 'must win' for Steve Wigley and co, but in the end Saints only just avoided losing it.

All seemed well when Anders Svensson gave Saints a 28th minute lead, but within 60 seconds Welsh international Robert Earnshaw had levelled.

Earnshaw then struck again before half-time, and Saints had to wait until three minutes from time before Svensson conjured up an equaliser.

We all know what eventually happened. West Brom started the final day rock bottom but jumped to safety – ahead of Saints, Norwich and Crystal Palace – by beating Pompey 2-0 at The Hawthorns while other results all went their way.

October 6, 2007

Saints 3 West Brom 2

An entertaining affair – which, in fairness, a few games against the Baggies in recent years haven't been.

Saints stormed into a 2-0 lead inside 23 minutes through Stern John and Rudi Skacel.

Back came with Baggies, though, with Robert Koren reducing the arrears just after the half-hour mark and then equalising just after the hour mark.

Parity did not last long, though, as Stern struck again two minutes later with a cheeky back heel from inside the six-yard box.

West Brom were eventually promoted as champions.

April 27, 2013

Saints 0 West Brom 3

Saints' heaviest home defeat to the Baggies came amid a flurry of red cards.

The afternoon began badly for Mauricio Pochettino's men, with Marc-Antoine Fortune opening the scoring in the sixth minute, and gradually got worse.

Romelu Lukaku, on loan from Chelsea, doubled the lead in the 67th minute before referee Rob Madley – taking charge of his first ever Premier League game – took centre stage.

A few minutes later, half-time substitute Gaston Ramirez appeared to elbow Shane Long in the face as the pair chased after the ball.

The resulting fracas saw Fortune push his hand into Ramirez's face and Madley gave both players their marching orders.

Continued on page 30

Theo hasn't given up on World Cup dream

THEO Walcott has yet to give up on his dream of playing for England at a World Cup as he first aims to break back into Arsenal's Premier League side.

The 28-year-old former Saints academy starlet has yet to start a league game for the Gunners this season and has been restricted to Carabao Cup and Europa League cameos.

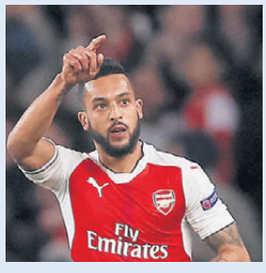
He played his part in Thursday night's 1-0 victory at Red Star Belgrade, exchanging passes with Jack Wilshere before heading across for Olivier Giroud to turn home a brilliant overhead kick.

Red Star had tested a much-changed Arsenal side – showing nine alterations from Saturday's defeat at Watford – hitting the post in the first half before having Milan Rodic sent off minutes before Giroud struck.

Walcott was one of those to come into the team as the likes of Alexis Sanchez, Mesut Ozil and Alexandre Lacazette were left at home.

Now Walcott, who has never played for England at a World Cup despite a sensational call-up for the 2006 tournament when he was just 17, wants to earn his spot back in Arsenal's Premier League XI to bolster his chances of going to Russia next summer.

Asked if he had extra motivation to get into the Arsenal side on a regular basis due to it being a World Cup year, he replied: "Of course. That is why I need to be playing



Theo Walcott

football, simple as that.

"But I need to deserve to be playing. So in this competition, cup games, Premier League when given the chance, I need to take it.

"That is the only chance I have to get back into the England squad. If I work harder than anyone else... I know my qualities, how good I am."

Walcott has not been named in an England squad in almost a year but feels his 47 caps and eight goals – including a World Cup qualifying treble in Croatia way back in 2008 – could aid Gareth Southgate's inexperienced players heading into the tournament.

"I have got so much experience under my belt, there's no reason why I can't prove people wrong and get back in that squad," he said.

"It is a very young squad and I feel like maybe a bit of experience is always handy coming into tournaments."

Walcott admits a sense of frustration at his limited game-time this season.

"I can't lie, it has obviously been very difficult," he added.

"I had such a big influence last year and the amount of goals I scored but now it has been a bit of a stuttering start to the season.

"I have managed to bounce back from worse things but it is just one of those things in football you have got to deal with.

"I am dealing with it in the right way and that's to be completely focused. That's all I can be."

PINK INK

JWP at the double in home win

From page 29

Long then added to Saints' woes, making it 3-0 on 77 minutes, before Saints were reduced to nine men when Danny Fox was red carded for a wild lunge on Steven Reid.

Prior to the game, Saints had not had a single player sent off all season.

January 16, 2016

Saints 3 West Brom 0

There was good news prior to the game when Saints announced the £4m signing of QPR striker Charlie Austin.

Even more good news followed as Ronald Koeman's side romped to victory over the Baggies.

The game was a personal triumph for midfielder James Ward-Prowse.

Not noted for his goalscoring, he netted twice – his first, and so far only, brace for Saints – in the opening 35 minutes.

Virgil van Dijk is shown his first yellow card against West Brom last December.

First, he curled in a brilliant 25-yard free-kick and then converted a penalty.

Dusan Tadic sealed the three points from a tight angle after a clever pass from Matt Targett in the second half.

December 31, 2016

Saints 1 West Brom 2

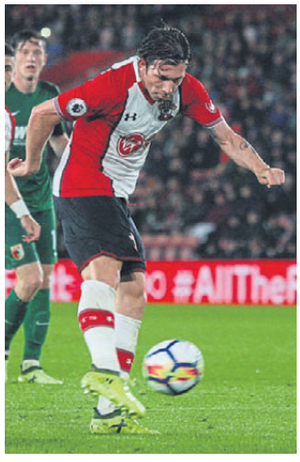
Saints' second home loss in a matter of four days – and their second red card in the same period.

After crashing 4-1 to Tottenham with Nathan Redmond sent off, Saints then lost to the Baggies with Virgil van Dijk seeing red late on for a second bookable offence.

Shane Long had opened the scoring, against his former club, four minutes before half-time. It was his first Saints goal of the season.

The joy lasted just two minutes before Matt Phillips levelled, and five minutes into the second half Hal Robson-Kanu struck what proved to be the winner.

Spotlight on Republic's World Cup rivals



Pierre Hojbjerg.

THE Republic of Ireland have been drawn against Denmark in the play-offs for next summer's World Cup.

Martin O'Neill's side, including Saints striker Shane Long, avoided the likes of Italy and Switzerland to land the lowest-ranked seeded nation in Tuesday's draw after a 1-0 win in Wales last week secured second spot in Group D.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the Republic's forthcoming opposition .

PREVIOUS WORLD CUP FINALS APPEARANCES: Four

Denmark have been to one more World Cup than their play-off opponents. Both reached the round-of-16 stage at the 2002 finals in Japan and South Korea, England beating Denmark 3-0 as the Republic lost on penalties to Spain. While that was the Republic's last World Cup appearance – they also appeared in 1990 and 1994 – Denmark appeared at the 2010 tournament but failed to get out of the group stages.

2018 QUALIFICATION RECORD: P:10 W:6 D:2 L:2 F:20 A:8 Pts: 20

Age Hareide's Denmark ended their Group E qualification campaign behind Poland, having amassed 20 points – one more than the Republic managed. The Danes lost in Poland and were beaten 1-0 at home to Montenegro last October. Their 4-0 victory over the Poles last month shows that, on their day, they can be a tough opponent.

PREVIOUS WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION PLAY-OFFS: None

Denmark have only ever appeared in play-offs for European Championships, losing to Sweden in 2016 and thrashing Israel to reach Euro 2000. In contrast, this will be the Republic's eighth appearance in either a World Cup or European Championship play-off – and that is a record.

STAR MAN: Christian Eriksen

Eriksen makes things tick for the Euro 92 winners just as he does for Tottenham. The 25-year-old is Denmark's top goalscorer throughout the qualification process to date, racking up an impressive eight goals. The Republic will have to keep him quiet over the 180 minutes.

PREMIER LEAGUE CONTINGENT IN LAST SQUAD: Five

Eriksen was joined in Denmark's squad to face Montenegro and Romania by a quartet of Premier League talent. Leicester goalkeeper and Premier League winner Kasper Schmeichel is also first-choice for his country, with Huddersfield's Jonas Lossl in reserve.

Lossl's club-mate Mathias Jorgensen was also involved as was Chelsea defender Andreas Christensen. Brentford duo Andreas Bjelland and Henrik Dalsgaard were picked, along with with former Arsenal forward Nicklas Bendtner.

Saints midfielder Pierre Hojbjerg will be desperate to force his way back into the squad – but needs to be playing first team football for his club first.

Hawks boss 'gutted' by late FA Cup exit

Wendy **Gee**

LEE Bradbury was "gutted" by Havant & Waterlooville's galling last-gasp FA Cup exit last Saturday.

But the Hawks boss reckons that pushing Vanarama National League outfit Maidenhead United all the way in a 2-1 York Road defeat was a mark of his team's progression.

Havant, fresh back in the National League South after a season in the Ryman Premier, had snuffed out Sam Barrett's 23rd-minute opener for Maidenhead with a Jason Prior leveller early in the second half.

It stayed that way until the very last knockings when a precision volley from midfielder Ryan Upward broke Havant hearts.

But while sad that the Hawks – ten seasons on from their memorable fourth round tie against Liverpool at Anfield – did not feature in Monday's first round draw, Bradbury took heart from so nearly dragging Alan Devonshire's Magpies down to Hampshire for a replay.

"It was hard to take for everyone," Bradbury confessed. "We managed to get ourselves level and, as soon as we did, we took control of things. I really thought we were the better side.

"But it wasn't to be.

"We have let in a lot of goals late on in games and it's come back to bite us.

"We switched off and it doesn't matter who you play in the FA Cup, if you do that at an important time you're getting knocked out.

"But only a few months ago we were a Ryman Premier team and we've pushed a club doing well in the National League until the closing stages. We have to take encouragement from that at least.

"At the same time we know there are parts of our game we've got to do better in," he added. "I can't fault the players' effort, but we really should have at least got a replay.

"The FA Cup is important to us and we're out, so it doesn't matter how well we played."

To compound Havant's frustration, Maidenhead have been rewarded with a tasty first round trip to 1987 FA Cup winners Coventry City, now of League Two.

● Havant & Waterlooville skipper Brian Stock has undergone a knee operation.

The 35-year-old former AFC Bournemouth midfielder is out for six to eight weeks while he gets over a medial ligament tear.

Winchester-born Stock vowed: "I am a positive person and have always worked hard to recover from injuries and this will be no different.

"I will come back stronger than before."

Lee Bradbury

PINK INK

'It's not right an FA employee should behave that way'

KEY quotes from the Eniola Aluko scandal this week ...

"I want to reiterate the apology to Eniola Aluko and Drew Spence. It's not right an FA employee should behave that way. We have a grievance procedure, but it's clearly fallen short in respect to the pressures elite players have" – **FA Chief Executive Martin Glenn did apologise to Aluko and Spence.**

"Yes, in this case, there's clearly been mistakes" – **Glenn accepted mistakes were made but refused to say the FA had failed in its duty of care.**

"It's not a pack of lies but it's an embellishment. (It was) the end of a long day and came out all wrong" – **Glenn retracted a comment he made to the Guardian saying he wanted Newton to investigate because she is black.**

"I can categorically confirm that did not happen" – **Dan Ashworth denied Aluko was dropped from the England team because of her allegations against Sampson.**

"I will never look up to their governance" – **In one of the more extraordinary moments, Clarke hit out at the Professional Footballers' Association, which has supported Aluko, accusing it of turning away from addicts and victims of abuse and criticising the salary paid to chief executive Gordon Taylor.**

"Fluff" – **Arguably the most damaging moment of a hugely uncomfortable afternoon for the FA came when Clarke referred to claims of institutional racism as fluff. He swiftly apologised after scathing criticism from the committee.**

"The question should be: does what you've seen today inspire confidence and do they understand the issues well enough to put in place the right systems to ensure it doesn't happen again? And I'm not convinced" – **Committee chairman Damian Collins MP feels the FA chiefs should consider their positions.**

Timeline of Aluko 'racism' claims

FORMER England women's manager Mark Sampson made remarks that were "discriminatory on grounds of race" to Eni Aluko, barrister Katharine Newton this week concluded in her final report.

It is just over 10 weeks since Aluko's allegations about her treatment by Sampson – claims he strenuously denies – were first made public.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the timeline of events since then.

August 7

The Daily Mail reveals that Aluko made allegations of bullying and harassment against Sampson and his staff in May 2016. An FA investigation concluded in March 2017 and cleared Sampson and his staff of wrongdoing, but Aluko was paid a settlement in a confidentiality agreement, which the FA insisted was to avoid disruption to England's Euro 2017 campaign.

August 16

Details of an allegation made by Aluko emerge, claiming Sampson made a remark towards another player with "racial and prejudicial connotations". Sampson is alleged to have made reference to the number of times a player had been arrested.

August 17

The FA releases a statement from Sampson saying he welcomed the investigation and would be looking to improve his communication skills.

August 21

Aluko speaks publicly on the matter for the first time and alleges Sampson made a racist comment to her ahead of an England game. After telling Sampson she had relatives coming from Nigeria to watch the game, Aluko claims Sampson replied: "Well make sure they don't come over with Ebola."

Mark Sampson

August 22

The Professional Footballers' Association backs calls for a new investigation into how Aluko's complaints were handled.

September 5

Sampson speaks publicly for the first time about the allegations and says his conscience is clear.

September 11

Damian Collins, chair of the parliamentary culture, media and sport select committee, reveals they will summon senior executives from the FA to answer questions.

September 12

Sampson appears to contradict evidence he gave to the inquiry when he tells a press conference he cannot recall ever having a conversation about Ebola with Aluko.

September 19

Every member of the starting XI races to the bench to celebrate with Sampson after Nikita Parris nets opener for England in 6-0 World Cup qualifying win over Russia in Tranmere. The exuberant scenes spark criticism from Aluko, who suggests it was a sign of "disrespect" towards her from within the ranks of the Lionesses.

September 20

The FA sacks Sampson with immediate effect. In a statement the FA says safeguarding allegations were made against Sampson in 2014 relating to his time as Bristol Academy manager. It said the current FA leadership was only made aware of a full report of that investigation the previous week and the report revealed "clear evidence of inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour by a coach".

October 18

Newton's final report is made public. Having initially cleared Sampson of bullying and racism, she changes her mind and decides he did twice make "ill-judged attempts at humour, which, as a matter of law, were discriminatory on grounds of race". The FA apologises to Aluko and teammate Drew Spence.

Standing in the way of Northern Ireland

SWITZERLAND stand in the way of Northern Ireland and a place at next summer's World Cup after the nations were paired together in the play-offs. Here, the Sports Pink looks at the Swiss.

PREVIOUS WORLD CUP FINALS APPEARANCES: 10

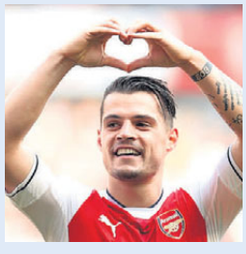
While Northern Ireland have only taken part in three World Cups, the Swiss first played at the World Cup in 1934, reaching the quarter-finals, and have participated in the last three tournaments, making it to the round of 16 in both 2006 and 2014.

2018 QUALIFICATION RECORD: P:10 W:9 D:0 L:1 F:23 A:7 Pts: 27

No previous UEFA-affiliated nation has failed to make it to the World Cup having picked up 27 points in the group stage. Switzerland had a near-perfect record in Group B but it was a record equalled by Euro 2016 winners Portugal – who beat them in their final group game to secure top spot.

PREVIOUS WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION PLAY-OFFS: One

Switzerland do not possess much experience in the play-offs, only appearing at this stage once in the past. They were victorious in 2006, beating Turkey on away goals after the tie ended 4-4 over both legs.



Granit Xhaka

Northern Ireland have never featured in a play-off for either the World Cup or European Championships and will become the 34th different UEFA member to do so next month.

STAR MAN: Xherdan Shaqiri

The Stoke forward is a key part of Switzerland's attacking unit and has hit an impressive 20 goals in 66 appearances for his country. The diminutive former Bayern Munich and Inter Milan star could hurt Northern Ireland if given half a chance, while Benfica striker Haris Seferovic can cause problems.

PREMIER LEAGUE CONTINGENT IN LAST SQUAD: Two

Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka and Shaqiri were the two called up for the games against Hungary and Portugal.

The pair played every minute of both games, with Xhaka opening the scoring in the 5-2 win over Hungary.

Huddersfield defender Florent Hadergjonaj, West Ham's Edimilson Fernandes and Timm Klose of Norwich have also recently featured for the senior side.

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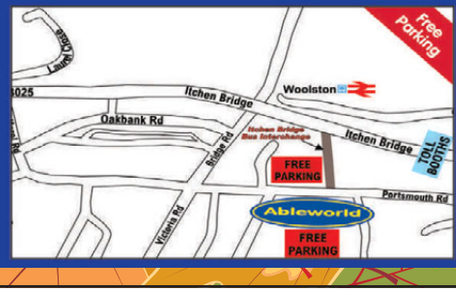

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Louis leads cup romp

CHAMBERLAYNE Athletic went nap as they stormed through to the semi finals of the Southampton FA Sunday Senior Cup.

The current City of Southampton Sunday League top flight leaders caned visiting Boyatt Wood 5-0 with Louis Lemessieur scoring twice. Seb Bridle and an own goal were also on target.

Clock Inn, bottom of the CoSL's Senior Division, are also through to the last four after a 3-2 home win over Durley.

Joe Moore, Ben MacKay and Ben Rizzo were on target, with Mike Cooper and Ash Dallimore replying.

Itchen Saints, currently second in the CoSL top flight, won 4-2 at Testlands through goals from Sanchez McLean, Sam McStay, Scott Saunders and Rich Smith. Nat Newman and Dan Scott replied.

Spitfire hit back in style

AFC SPITFIRE hit back from two goals down against higher division rivals to progress to the third round of the Southampton FA Sunday Junior A Cup.

Junior 1 leaders Hunters Inn led 2-0 at half-time at Junior 2 Spitfire thanks to goals from Dan Hansford and Bert Broomfield.

But Spitfire roared back to take the tie to penalties through Damian Slawkowski and Dan Richard.

Neil Philpotts, Marcus Holley, Slawkowski and Steve Bell were then on target as Spitfire completed their recovery act with a 4-2 shoot-out success. Oliver Broomfield and Ed Hancock converted for Hunters.

Bitterne Ducks boasted two hat-trick heroes in a 7-1 win at King George. Chris Pye and Michael Thomas both struck three times and Luke Richards was also on target. Rich Bampton replied.

OTs produce a cup shock

JUNIOR 3 high-fliers OTs & Romsey knocked out Junior 1 side Bridge Manor.

Matt Bampton, Mitch Down and Paul Tanner scored as OTs stormed into a 3-0 interval lead. Back came Bridge, though, with Matthew Camfield and Aaron Rawlings setting up a tense finale.

James Hill struck a hat-trick as Test Valley Spartans won 6-3 at Portswood.

Callum Scott (2) and Dan Stobbart also scored as Test Valley led 5-0 at one stage. Matt White, Rob Elder and sub Jamie Rosher replied.

Ollie Winter was the top marksman in the second round with four goals as Bedford Arms won 6-1 at Royale Marine. Kieran Britland and Scott Jones also scored, with Ryo Brown replying.

● Got a football story for us? Email words and pictures - jpeg images only please - to echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Alternatively, contact sports editor Simon Carter on 02380 424515.

PINK INK

Draw a 'great effort' after motorway issues

A NEAR four-hour motorway crawl to Thurrock was hardly the preparation the Hampshire Colleges representative team needed before taking on national champions Essex in the English Schools' FA County League.

But manager Luke Hampton was more than delighted with the goal-less draw his travel weary troops eked out

"The display was full of character and determination and hopefully bodes well for the season," he beamed.

"A great team/squad effort, with stand out performances from Peter Symonds' goalkeeper Josh Tombs, Man Alli (Sparsholt) and George Ockwell, the Barton Peveril centre-back."

After starting brightly for the first 15 minutes, Hampshire had to endure a huge amount of pressure in the first half and did well to get in to half-time still on level terms.

"Josh Tombs made two cracking saves to keep the scoreline level," Hampton said.

"We decided to change shape at half time to see if that made any difference to the pattern of the game and went 4-4-2, to get some support alongside Mani Alli (Sparsholt) in attack.

"It made a huge difference. We forced Essex back in the second half, stretched them in behind and created several great chances.

"Unfortunately we were unable to take any of the chances we created, but were happy to come away with a point over the 90 minutes.

Hampshire squad: Josh Tombs (PSC), Jean-Luc Ramdin (Itchen), Wayne Nderemani (Sparsholt) , George Ockwell (Barton Peveril), George Farrelly (Sparsholt), Ryan Penny (Sparsholt), Cameron Langan (Alton), Harry Prisk (BP), Emanuel Alli (Sparsholt), Josh Mccormick (Portsmouth), Jordan Ragguette (Portsmouth). Substitutes: Harvey Clarke (P), Ethan Taylor (Itchen), Shaquille Gwengwe (P), Josh Davies (BP), Henry Jordan (P).

● Hampshire host Surrey in the next ESFA County match under Alton Town's Anstey Park floodlights on Friday November 10 (8pm).

The Butler did it – twice in 72 hours!

Mike **Vimpany**

IF IT'S late goals you need, then Harry Butler is your man!

Twice in 72 hours this week, he applied the Midas touch and scored crucial late goals.

On Monday evening, he was Sholing's last gasp equalising extra-time goal hero in the eventual FA Youth Cup victory over Aldershot Town.

Two days later, he hit a late winner to give Itchen a 3-2 victory over Barton Peveril and send his sixth form team top of the Hampshire Colleges League.

Those weren't the only goals of Butler's 'three-in-three' week: he also hit the target in Sholing's 7-0 Russell Cotes Cup demolition of Follands Sports, coming off the bench to pot the seventh goal of the night.

Butler's saviour goal for Sholing in the FA Youth Cup was unquestionably the most important of his personal tthreesome.

With only two minutes of extra-time remaining, Sholing's youngsters trailed 2-1 to Aldershot and were on the brink of going out of the Youth Cup.

But, in the 118th minute, Butler popped up head a late, late equaliser and send the tie into a penalty shoot-out, which Sholing won 4-3 to seal a home tie against Clevedon Town in the next round.

Butler is among several Sholing players who turn out for Itchen in the Colleges League – the talented Jean-Luc Ramdin having been capped several times by England Under-18 Schools last season.

Alongside Farnborough, Itchen and Barton Peveril are arguably the top two sides in the HCL this term and their heavyweight clash in the Chestnut Avenue mud certainly didn't disappoint.

BP looked potential winners on the back of two inspirational pieces of first half play by midfielder Miles Gibson, who plys his skills in the Sydenhams League for Fareham Town.

Gibson evaded several Itchen challenges before Mitch Byrne clipped his hell inside the box and Luke Bennett fired home the resulting penalty.

Soon after, Gibson sped through again, cutting in from the right before arrowing a shot into the top corner. It was a stunning strike.

Lesser teams might have crumbled, but once Jake Willis-Dellimore clawed Itchen back into it shortly before half-time there was only going to be one winner.

Itchen bossed the rest of the game, out-muscling Barton Peveril and getting two decisive goals late on.

James Smith equalised before Harry Butler popped up with his party trick and scored Itchen's winner.

Richard Taunton's celebrated a 4-3 win over Poole Grammar and in Gravel Lane match rivals coaches Tom Barge and Dan Crutchley described as credit to the Colleges League.

All the RTC goals came from centre midfield – one of Nicky Pinnock's brace being a 25-yard rocket.

Zia Samedi and another long range effort from Hamad Hedari completed the scoring for Tauntons, while George Heap (2) and Elvie Purnell replied for Poole, whose third goal came in stoppage time.

It rained goals in Basingstoke, where defending champions Peter Symonds beat Queen Mary's 8-5.

Mick Robinson (2), Billy Rolls (2), Jack Middleton, Theo Wolfarth, Eddie Lloyd, and Louis Francis scored for PSC, whose second team drew 2-2 with Brockenhurst, with Jonty Hughes and Max Reed on target.

Callum Esfandiari notched a hat-trick as Barton Peveril nailed Portsmouth 8-0 in the Championship.

Tom Bushnell (2), Nathan Bickel, Luke Hide and Fin Bingham completed the rout.

Harry Butler popped up with two late goals in 72 hours.

PINK INK

Rovers end run of losses with 3-1 home win

LANDGUARD Rovers are finally off the mark in Junior 2 of the City of Southampton Sunday League.

Iyaaz Cawsey, Jordan Djillali and an own goal ended a run of four straight losses and gave them a 3-1 home win over Curbridge.

Hedge End Athletic won 4-1 at Marchwood with Gav Cross (2), Andy Bauck and Shaun Ridoutt on target. Matt Petty replied.

Mayfield Rovers turned on the style in the first half of their Junior 3 thrashing of Portside.

They led 6-1 at the interval en route to a 9-1 success gained with goals from Dale Perry (3), Josh Gore (2), Fraser Weeks, Connor Bray, Sam Martin and Jordan Withey. Kabir Breathen replied.

Matt Bosenquet struck three times as Mottisfont caned visiting AFC Dorchester 7-1. Mike MacLeod (2), Steven Frampton and Jason Gradidge also scored, with Jordan Smith replying.

Rowland Bryan (2) and Dan Collinson netted as AFC Itchen won 3-1 against Burridge in Junior 5. Louis Wallbridge replied.

Shaun Harrison and James Fitzpatrick struck in the first half as Wilton Wanderers won 2-0 at AFC Mayflower Reserves in the only Junior 7 game played.

Zbigniew Peplinski grabbed a second half leveller for AFC Riverside in their Junior 1 draw at Eastpoint. Dan Brunnen had given the hosts an interval lead.

Athletico through thanks to late show

Athletico Romsey were within minutes of a shock loss in the second round of the Southampton FA Sunday Junior B Cup.

The City of Southampton Junior 4 leaders were trailing 1-0 at Junior 6 table-toppers Unity 101 when Tom Rafferty popped up with an 88th minute leveller.

Matt Fredericks, Sam Hudson, Ollie Burroughs and Jamie Bench-Parker then held their nerve as Athletico won 4-2 on penalties.

Unity, who had taken the lead in normal time through, Ray Fakirmohamed, scored through Hassan Ahmady and Joe Pilgrim.

Dillion Smith (2), Warren Attrill and Callum Byrne netted as Southern Sports won 4-3 at Whiteheart United, who replied through Tom Palmer (2) and Liam Harfield.

Phoenix United won 4-1 at AFC Mayflower with Adam Martin (2), Jonny Pipes and Alexei Cove netting after a goalless first half. Callum Wookey replied.

Ben Finn, Josh Hill and Steve Chandler-King scored as Chamberlayne Athletic 'A' won 3-1 against Hedge End City. Adrian McIntee replied.

Empire defeated Hedge End Club 4-2 with Aaron Dunne (2), Lee Course and Ashley Hibberd on target. J Bessant and Sol Kreft replied.

Freddy Atterbury, Mitch Young and George West fired Forest Home into a 3-0 half-time lead against Sholing Monks, who hit back through Mo Elazabi and James Elmore.

Mick Manning (3) was Hamwic Rovers' hat-trick hero in a 7-3 home romp against Montfort.

Pawel Burdzy,

Dan Stockley (2), Pawel Burdzy and Tom Whitaker also scored, with Tom Farr, Matt Abrey and Andy Seggie replying.

Gary Fitzehorswell went nap as Chandler's Ford Athletic thrashed Netley Spitfire 9-2. Cameron Ross, Ryan Farrant and Lee Farrant-Poole also scored with Jack Sharpe twice replying.

Rhys Moon & Ryan Dove (2) scored as Meon Valley United won 3-0 at M & T.

Ben Hatcher (2) and Stewart Parr replied as Nemesis crashed 5-3 at home to AFC Itchen Reserves, who netted through Mile Bedford (3), Joe Rippon and Ash Strong.

Otter S.F.C. defeated Tokyo 4-2 with all the goals coming in the first 45 minutes.

Adam Swift (2), Michael Knott and Andy McChrystal were on target for the winners.

Matt Veale hit a hat-trick as Park Gate Rangers pipped Sporting Compass 4-3, with Aiden Martin also scoring. Pete Kershaw (2) and James Parsons replied.

Ollie Betts and Stuart Weetman replied as R.S. Nomansland Reserves lost 5-2 at home to AFC Stoneham.

AFC Southbridge gave Riverside Rangers a helping hand in their 5-2 victory.

Southbridge twice scored an own goal, with Liam Cassidy (2) and Dave Pilley also on target.

Ben Jacobs (2), Lee Hobbs, Nick White and Jack Marshall were among the scorers as Romsey Comrades defeated Southern Sports Reserves 6-2. Adam Richardson and Ryan Williams replied.

West Brom's Grzegorz Krychowiak and Saints' Oriol Romeu during today's match – report and pictures, p2-5

City of Southampton Sunday League
Senior Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chamberlayne	5	4	1	0	20	4	13
Itchen Saints	4	3	0	1	14	5	9
Fawley R.B.L.	4	2	1	1	16	7	7
Boyatt Wood	5	2	1	2	9	16	7
Durley	5	1	1	3	8	23	4
R.S. Nomansland	3	1	0	2	8	6	3
Testlands	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
A.F.C. Soton	3	1	0	2	6	8	3
Clock Inn	5	1	0	4	6	18	3

Junior 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hunters Inn	4	4	0	0	13	5	12
Bridge Manor	4	3	1	0	17	7	10
Lyndhurst	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
King George	4	1	1	2	11	12	4
Eastpoint	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
A.F.C. Riverside	4	0	2	2	4	8	2
Bitterne Ducks	4	0	2	2	7	14	2
Lordshill	3	0	1	2	6	10	1
Winsor U.S.C.	1	0	0	1	1	5	0

Junior 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hedge End	5	5	0	0	27	4	15
Portswood	4	3	0	1	14	9	9
Chartwell Green	3	2	0	1	13	8	6
A.F.C. Spitfire	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Marchwood	5	1	1	3	7	15	4
Chamberl' Res	3	1	0	2	7	9	3
Curbridge	4	1	0	3	5	13	3
Landguard	5	1	0	4	8	23	3
Bedford Arms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Junior 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mottisfont	5	5	0	0	34	11	15
O.T's & Romsey	5	5	0	0	30	10	15
Mayfield Rovers	5	4	0	1	28	7	12
Portside	6	3	1	2	26	21	10
Testlands Res	4	1	1	2	12	12	4
Test Valley Sp	3	1	0	2	18	15	3
A.F.C. Dorchester	4	1	0	3	15	18	3
Royale Marine	2	0	0	2	1	8	0
London Airways	4	0	0	4	7	27	0
Soton Warriors	4	0	0	4	5	47	0

Junior 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Athletico Romsey	5	4	0	1	22	8	12
Tokyo	5	4	0	1	15	6	12
Sholing Monks	6	3	1	2	13	18	10
A.F.C. Stoneham	5	2	1	2	14	8	7
A.F.C. Forestside	4	2	0	2	13	8	6
Forest Home	4	1	0	3	8	10	3
Hedge End City	4	1	0	3	8	13	3
Nomansland Res	3	1	0	2	7	17	3
Romsey Comrades	4	1	0	3	4	16	3

Junior 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chandlers Ford	6	5	0	1	28	12	15
Hedge End Club	5	4	0	1	20	7	12
A.F.C. Itchen	4	3	0	1	14	13	9
Dingle Rovers	3	2	0	1	9	4	6
Chamberlayne A	4	2	0	2	10	10	6
Netley Spitfire	5	2	0	3	15	19	6
A.F.C. Mayflower	3	1	0	2	7	11	3
Whitehart United	4	1	0	3	11	18	3
Sp Compass	5	1	0	4	7	15	3
Burridge	3	0	0	3	3	15	0

Junior 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Unity 101	6	5	0	1	26	8	15
Southern Sports	5	3	1	1	16	7	10
Hamwic Rovers	5	3	1	1	15	15	10
Otter S.F.C.	4	3	0	1	12	9	9
Riverside	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Nemesis	5	1	1	3	12	16	4
Park Gate	6	1	1	4	17	24	4
Linden Tree	4	0	1	3	7	15	1
Meon Valley	3	0	1	2	5	16	1

Junior 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southern Res	5	4	0	1	33	12	12
Southbridge	5	3	0	2	18	22	9
Empire	4	2	2	0	21	5	8
Phoenix	4	2	1	1	14	9	7
A.F.C. Itchen Res	5	2	1	2	15	20	7
Montfort	4	2	1	1	10	15	7
Wilton	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Mayflower Res	6	1	1	4	11	23	4
M & T	6	0	0	6	6	24	0

PINK LEAGUE FIXTURES 2017/18

SAINTS

PREMIER LEAGUE

AUGUST

12 Swansea (H)	D 0-0
19 West Ham (H)	W 3-2
26 Huddersfield (A)	D 0-0

SEPTEMBER

9 Watford (H)	L 0-2
16 Crystal Palace (A)	W 1-0
23 Man United (H)	L 0-1
30 Stoke (A)	L 1-2

OCTOBER

15 Newcastle (H)	D 2-2
21 West Brom	(H)
29 Brighton	(A)

NOVEMBER

4 Burnley	(H)
18 Liverpool	(A)
26 Everton	(H)
29 Manchester City	(A)

DECEMBER

3 Bournemouth	(A)
11 Arsenal	(H)
13 Leicester	(H)
16 Chelsea	(A)
23 Huddersfield	(H)
26 Tottenham (12.30pm)	(A)
30 Manchester United	(A)

JANUARY

1 Crystal Palace	(H)
13 Watford	(A)
20 Tottenham	(H)
31 Brighton	(H)

FEBRUARY

3 West Brom	(A)
10 Liverpool	(H)
24 Burnley	(A)

MARCH

3 Stoke	(H)
10 Newcastle	(A)
17 Swansea	(A)
31 West Ham	(A)

APRIL

7 Arsenal	(A)
14 Chelsea	(H)
21 Leicester	(A)
28 Bournemouth	(H)

MAY

5 Everton	(A)
13 Manchester City	(H)

CHERRIES

PREMIER LEAGUE

AUGUST

12 West Brom (A)	L 0-1
19 Watford (H)	L 0-2
26 Manchester City(H)	L 1-2

SEPTEMBER

9 Arsenal (A)	L 0-3
15 Brighton (H)	W 2-1
23 Everton (A)	L 1-2
30 Leicester (H)	D 0-0

OCTOBER

14 Tottenham (A)	L 0-1
21 Stoke	(A)
28 Chelsea	(H)

NOVEMBER

4 Newcastle	(A)
18 Huddersfield	(H)
25 Swansea	(A)
29 Burnley	(H)

DECEMBER

3 Southampton	(H)
9 Crystal Palace	(A)
12 Manchester United	(A)
16 Liverpool	(H)
23 Manchester City	(A)
26 West Ham	(H)
30 Everton	(H)

JANUARY

1 Brighton	(A)
13 Arsenal	(H)
20 West Ham	(A)
31 Chelsea	(A)

FEBRUARY

3 Stoke	(H)
10 Huddersfield	(A)
24 Newcastle	(H)

MARCH

3 Leicester	(A)
10 Tottenham	(H)
17 West Brom	(H)
31 Watford	(A)

APRIL

7 Crystal Palace	(H)
14 Liverpool	(A)
21 Manchester United	(H)
28 Southampton	(A)

MAY

5 Swansea	(H)
13 Burnley	(A)

POMPEY

LEAGUE 1

AUGUST

5 Rochdale (H)	W 2-0
12 Oxford United(A)	L 0-3
19 Walsall (H)	D 1-1
26 Wigan (A)	D 1-1

SEPTEMBER

3 Rotherham (H)	L 0-1
9 AFC Wimbledon (A)	W 2-0
12 Northampton (A)	L 1-3
16 Fleetwood (H)	W 4-1
23 Scunthorpe (A)	L 0-2
26 Bristol Rovers(H)	W 3-0
30 Oldham (H)	L 1-2

OCTOBER

8 Gillingham (A)	W 1-0
14 MK Dons (H)	W 2-0
17 Doncaster (A)	L 1-2
21 Blackburn	(A)
28 Bradford City	(H)

NOVEMBER

11 Blackpool	(A)
18 Southend	(H)
21 Peterborough	(A)
25 Plymouth	(H)

DECEMBER

9 Charlton	(A)
16 Bury	(H)
23 Shrewsbury	(A)
26 AFC Wimbledon	(H)
30 Northampton	(H)

JANUARY

1 Bristol Rovers	(A)
6 Fleetwood	(A)
13 Scunthorpe	(H)
20 Rotherham	(A)
27 Shrewsbury	(H)

FEBRUARY

3 Doncaster	(H)
10 MK Dons	(A)
13 Blackburn	(H)
17 Southend	(A)
24 Blackpool	(H)

MARCH

3 Bradford City	(A)
10 Gillingham	(H)
17 Oldham	(A)
24 Oxford United	(H)
31 Walsall	(A)

APRIL

2 Wigan	(H)
7 Rochdale	(A)
14 Plymouth	(A)
21 Charlton	(H)
28 Bury	(A)

MAY

5 Peterborough	(H)

EASTLEIGH

NATIONAL LEAGUE

AUGUST

5 Bromley (A)	D 0-0
8 Sutton United (H)	W 1-0
12 Dagenham (H)	D 2-2
15 Woking (A)	L 1-2
19 Tranmere (H)	W 2-0
26 Leyton Orient(A)	D 1-1
28 Aldershot (H)	D 0-0

SEPTEMBER

2 Ebbsfleet (A)	D 2-2
9 Guiseley (A)	D 0-0
12 Maidstone (H)	L 0-1
16 AFC Fylde (H)	D 2-2
23 Hartlepool (A)	W 2-1
30 Chester (H)	PP

OCTOBER

3 Boreham Wood (A)	L 0-1
7 Wrexham (A)	L 1-2
21 Gateshead	(H)
24 Solihull Moors	(H)
28 Macclesfield	(A)

NOVEMBER

11 Dover	(A)
18 Barrow	(H)
21 Maidenhead	(H)
25 Halifax Town	(A)

DECEMBER

2 Sutton United	(A)
9 Bromley	(H)
23 Dagenham	(A)
26 Torquay	(H)
30 Woking	(H)

JANUARY

1 Torquay	(A)
6 Guiseley	(H)
20 Maidstone	(A)
27 Hartlepool	(H)

FEBRUARY

3 AFC Fylde	(A)
10 Boreham Wood	(H)
17 Chester	(A)
20 Maidenhead	(A)
24 Halifax Town	(H)

MARCH

3 Barrow	(A)
10 Dover Athletic	(H)
17 Leyton Orient	(H)
24 Tranmere	(A)
30 Ebbsfleet	(H)

APRIL

2 Aldershot	(A)
7 Wrexham	(H)
14 Gateshead	(A)
21 Macclesfield	(H)
28 Solihull Moors	(A)

POOLE

NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

AUGUST

5 Weston SM (A)	W 2-1
8 Bognor Regis (H)	D 2-2
12 East Thurrock (H)	L 2-3
15 Chippenham (A)	W 1-0
19 St Albans City (H)	L 0-1
26 Bath City (A)	L 0-1
28 Hungerford (H)	L 1-2

SEPTEMBER

2 Whitehawk (A)	D 2-2
5 Hemel Hempstead(H)	L 2-4
9 Welling United (A)	L 0-2
11 Wealdstone (A)	L 1-4
23 Chelmsford City (H)	D 0-0

OCTOBER

7 Oxford City (A)	W 3-2
14 Concord Rangers (H)	PP
21 Havant & W	(A)
28 Gloucester City	(H)

NOVEMBER

4 Eastbourne Borough	(A)
11 Braintree	(H)
18 Hampton & RB	(A)

DECEMBER

2 Dartford	(H)
9 Weston Super-Mare	(H)
23 Bognor Regis Town	(A)
26 Truro City	(H)

JANUARY

1 Truro City	(A)
6 Chippenham	(H)
13 East Thurrock	(A)
20 Welling United	(H)
27 Hemel Hempstead	(A)

FEBRUARY

3 Gloucester City	(A)
10 Havant & W	(H)
17 Eastbourne Borough	(H)
24 Braintree	(A)

MARCH

3 Hampton & RB	(H)
10 Dartford	(A)
17 Bath City	(H)
24 St Albans City	(A)
30 Whitehawk	(H)

APRIL

2 Hungerford	(A)
7 Chelmsford City	(A)
14 Wealdstone	(H)
21 Concord Rangers	(A)
28 Oxford City	(H)

PINK LEAGUE FIXTURES 2017/18

GOSPORT

SOUTHERN PREMIER

AUGUST

12 King's Lynn Town(A) L 0-2
15 Slough Town (H) L 1-5
19 Royston Town(H) L 2-3
26 Tiverton Town(A) L 0-2
28 Basingstoke Town(H) L 0-8

SEPTEMBER

9 Biggleswade Town (A) L 0-2
12 Farnborough (H) L 2-4
23 Stratford Town (A) L 0-2
26 Kings Langley (A) D 1-1
30 Hitchin Town (H) L 0-3

OCTOBER

7 Bishop's Stortford (H) L 1-3
9 Dorchester Town (A) L 2-7
14 Merthyr Town (A) L 0-5
17 Banbury United (H) L 0-4
21 King's Lynn Town (H)
24 Slough Town (A)

NOVEMBER

4 St Neots Town (H)
11 Frome Town (A)
15 Farnborough (A)
18 Dunstable Town (H)
25 Kettering Town (A)
28 Kings Langley (H)

DECEMBER

2 Hereford (H)
9 Redditch United (A)
16 Chesham United (H)
23 St Ives Town (A)
26 Basingstoke Town (A)

JANUARY

1 Weymouth (H)
6 Royston Town (A)
13 Tiverton Town (H)
20 Bishop's Stortford (A)
27 Dorchester Town (H)

FEBRUARY

3 Banbury United (A)
10 Merthyr Town (H)
17 Hitchin Town (A)
24 Statford Town (H)

MARCH

3 Dunstable (A)
10 Kettering Town (H)
17 Redditch United (H)
24 Hereford (A)
31 Biggleswade Town (H)

APRIL

2 Weymouth (A)
7 St Ives Town (H)
14 Chesham United (A)
21 Frome Town (H)
28 St Neots Town (A)

AFC TOTTON

SOUTHERN WEST

AUGUST

12 Barnstaple Town(H) W 3-1
15 Bishops Cleeve(A) W 3-1
26 Slimbridge (H) L 1-2
28 Salisbury (A) L 0-2

SEPTEMBER

9 Yate Town (H) W 5-0
16 Taunton Town (A) L 1-2
23 Larkhall (A) W 1-0
26 North Leigh (H) W 2-1
30 Wimborne (A) D 1-1

OCTOBER

14 Cinderford (A) L 0-1
21 Bideford (H)
24 Swindon Supermarine (A)

NOVEMBER

4 Kidlington (A)
11 Mangotsfield (H)
14 Didcot Town (H)
18 Shortwood (A)
25 Evesham United (H)
28 Wimborne Town (A)

DECEMBER

2 Cirencester Town (H)
9 Bristol Manor Farm (A)
16 Bishops Cleeve (H)
23 Barnstaple Town (A)
26 Salisbury (H)

JANUARY

1 Winchester City (A)
6 Taunton Town (H)
13 Slimbridge (A)
20 Mangotsfield (A)
27 Kidlington (H)

FEBRUARY

3 Larkhall Athletic (H)
10 North Leigh (A)
17 Cinderford Town (H)
24 Paulton Rovers (A)

MARCH

3 Swindon Supermarine (H)
10 Bideford (A)
17 Bristol Manor Farm (H)
24 Cirencester Town (A)
31 Yate Town (A)

APRIL

2 Winchester City (H)
7 Shortwood United (H)
14 Didcot Town (A)
21 Wimborne Town (H)
28 Evesham United (A)

WINCHESTER

SOUTHERN WEST

AUGUST

12 Shortwood (A) W 4-2
15 Kidlington (H) L 0-1
26 Larkhall (A) W 2-1
28 Wimborne (H) W 1-0

SEPTEMBER

9 Cirencester Town (A) L 0-1
23 Mangotsfield (H) W 3-0
26 Didcot Town (A) W 4-2
30 Barnstaple (A) W 4-1

OCTOBER

14 Bristol Manor Farm (H) L 1-3
17 Paulton (H) D1-1
21 Taunton Town (A)
24 Salisbury (H)

NOVEMBER

4 Cinderford Town (A)
11 Bishops Cleeve (H)
14 Swindon Supermarine (H)
18 Yate Town (A)
25 Bideford (H)
28 North Leigh (A)

DECEMBER

2 Evesham United (H)
9 Slimbridge (A)
16 Kidlington (A)
23 Shortwood United (H)
26 Wimborne Town (A)

JANUARY

1 AFC Totton (H)
6 Paulton Rovers (A)
13 Larkhall Athletic (H)
20 Bishops Cleeve (A)
27 Cinderford Town (H)

FEBRUARY

3 Mangotsfield United (A)
10 Didcot Town (H)
17 Bristol Manor Farm (A)
24 Barnstaple Town (H)

MARCH

3 Salisbury (A)
10 Taunton Town (H)
17 Slimbridge (H)
24 Evesham United (A)
31 Cirencester Town (H)

APRIL

2 AFC Totton (A)
7 Yate Town (H)
14 Swindon Supermarine (A)
21 North Leigh (H)
28 Bideford (A)

SALISBURY

SOUTHERN WEST

AUGUST

12 Mangotsfield (A) W 5-0
15 Paulton Rovers(H) D 2-2
26 North Leigh (A) L 1-2
28 AFC Totton (H) W 2-0

SEPTEMBER

9 Shortwood (A) W 8-0
23 Yate Town (A) W 1-0
26 Swindon Super (H) L 0-2
30 Bishops Cleeve (H) D 0-0

OCTOBER

14 Slimbridge (A) W 5-2
21 Evesham United (H)
24 Winchester City (A)

NOVEMBER

4 Barnstaple Town (A)
11 Larkhall Athletic (H)
14 Kidlington (H)
18 Cinderford Town (A)
25 Bristol Manor Farm (H)
28 Didcot Town (A)

DECEMBER

2 Bideford (H)
9 Taunton Town (A)
16 Paulton Rovers (A)
23 Mangotsfield United (H)
26 AFC Totton (A)

JANUARY

1 Wimborne Town (H)
6 Cirencester Town (A)
13 North Leigh (H)
20 Larkhall Athletic (A)
27 Barnstaple Town (H)

FEBRUARY

3 Yate Town (H)
10 Swindon Supermarine (A)
17 Slimbridge (H)
24 Bishops Cleeve (A)

MARCH

3 Winchester City (H)
10 Evesham United (A)
17 Taunton Town (H)
24 Bideford (A)
31 Shortwood United (H)

APRIL

2 Wimborne Town (A)
7 Cinderford Town (H)
14 Kidlington (A)
21 Didcot Town (H)
28 Bristol Manor Farm (A)

WIMBORNE

SOUTHERN WEST

AUGUST

12 Bishops Cleeve(H) W 3-1
15 Didcot Town (A) L 2-4
26 Yate Town (H) W 4-2
28 Winchester City (A) L 0-1

SEPTEMBER

2 Larkhall Athletic (H) L 1-3
9 Bristol Manor Farm(H) L 1-3
17 Evesham United (A) W 2-1
23 Bideford (A) W 2-1
30 AFC Totton (H) D 1-1

OCTOBER

14 North Leigh (A) D 1-1
17 Cirencester (H) L 0-1
21 Swindon Supermarine (H)
24 Paulton Rovers (A)

NOVEMBER

4 Shortwood United (H)
11 Cirencester Town (A)
14 Taunton Town (A)
18 Mangotsfield United (H)
25 Slimbridge (A)
28 AFC Totton (H)

DECEMBER

2 Barnstaple Town (A)
9 Kidlington (H)
16 Didcot Town (H)
23 Bishops Cleeve (A)
26 Winchester City (H)

JANUARY

1 Salisbury (A)
6 Evesham United (H)
13 Yate Town (A)
20 Cirencester Town (H)
27 Shortwood United (A)

FEBRUARY

3 Bideford (H)
10 Larkhall Athletic (A)
17 North Leigh (H)
24 Cinderford Town (A)

MARCH

3 Paulton Rovers (H)
10 Swindon Supermarine (A)
17 Kidlington (A)
24 Barnstaple Town (H)
31 Bristol Manor Farm (A)

APRIL

2 Salisbury (H)
7 Mangotsfield (A)
14 Taunton Town (H)
21 AFC Totton (A)
28 Slimbridge (H)

De Kock and Amla share huge stand

QUINTON de Kock and Hashim Amla shared South Africa's highest one-day international partnership as the hosts beat Bangladesh by 10 wickets in the series opener in Kimberley.

Having been set 279 to win, the opening pair chased down the total with 7.1 overs to spare.

De Kock struck an unbeaten 168 off 145 balls, including 21 fours and two sixes, while Amla's 110 not out came off 112 balls.

The duo's stand of 282 was the joint-third highest in ODIs for the first wicket, just four runs short of the record held by Sri Lanka's Upul Tharanga (109) and Sanath Jayasuriya (152).

The latter pair's record stand was compiled against England at Headingley in July 2006.

After Marcus Trescothick had struck 121 in England's 321-7 total, the tourists raced to an eight-wicket success.

HIGHEST ODI STANDS

372 - CH Gayle (215) & MN Samuels (133*), West Indies v Zimbabwe, Canberra, 2014/15

331 - SR Tendulkar (186*) & RS Dravid (153), India v New Zealand, Hyderabad, 1999/00

318 - SC Ganguly (183) & RS Dravid

Quinton de Kock

(145), India v Sri Lanka, Taunton, 1999

286 - WU Tharanga (109) & ST Jayasuriya (152), Sri Lanka v England, Headingley, 2006

284 - DA Warner (179) & TM Head (128), Australia v Pakistan, Adelaide, 2016/17

282 - WU Tharanga (133) & TM Dilshan (144), Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe, Pallekele, 2010/11

282* - Q de Kock (168*) & HM Amla (110*), South Africa v Bangladesh, Kimberley, 2017/18

275* - M Azharuddin (153*) & AD Jadeja (116*), India v Zimbabwe, Cuttack, 1997/98

274 - JAH Marshall (161) & BB McCullum (166) New Zealand v Ireland, Aberdeen 2008

267* - GD Elliott (104*) & L Ronchi (170*) New Zealand v Sri Lanka, Dunedin 2014/15

263 - Aamer Sohail (134) & Inzamam-ul-Haq (137*) Pakistan v New Zealand, Sharjah, 1993/94

260 - DA Warner (178) & SPD Smith (95), Australia v Afghanistan, Perth, 2014/15

258 - SC Ganguly (111) & SR Tendulkar (146), India v Kenya Paarl, 2001/02

● England's record ODI stand is the unbroken 256-run partnership between Jason Roy (112*) and Alex Hales (133*) against Sri Lanka at Edgbaston in 2016.

HANTS CRICKET

Tributes paid to

Mike Vimpany

TONY Baker dedicated his life to cricket.

An all-rounder who opened the batting and bowling for Old Tauntonians and Southampton Touring Club at the peak of their powers in the late 1960s and 1970s, he was one of the finest club cricketers of his era.

A handy basketball player in the winter months, he combined his cricketing talents with organisational skills and, at the Touring Club, was opening batsman and bowler, secretary, fixture secretary and treasurer – all at the same time !

A perfect gentleman and one of the most genuine guys you could ever wish to meet, Tony was heavily involved with the old Southern League (in which he played with considerable distinction), initially as treasurer and then the league's chairman for five years.

He later took up his role as Hampshire's Chief Executive for a 15-year period before the move from Northlands Road to the Ageas Bowl.

He was previously county treasurer at Northlands Road for about eight years.

A tower of a man, both professionally and in sport, Tony was a partner with the Winchester-based accountancy practice Brooking Knowles & Lawrence (BKL) before becoming Hampshire's chief executive from 1986 to 2001.

True gentleman

"Tony was well known and very popular with Hampshire members," recalled Hampshire cricket secretary Tim Tremlett, who played against Mr Baker countless times during his embryo years with Deanery.

Hampshire chairman Rod Bransgrove said: "Tony Baker was, quite simply, one of the nicest people I have ever worked with. Calm, unflappable and completely honest in everything he did; he was a true gentleman.

"One of Tony's greatest achievements was managing the relocation of Hampshire Cricket from Northlands Road to the Ageas Bowl in a totally seamless manner.

"Over the two decades or so that I knew him, I don't recall him ever raising his voice.

"Tony will be sadly missed by Hampshire Cricket and by the many friends he has made throughout the cricket world and beyond. Our thoughts at this sad time are with Sally, Jonathan and Paul and Tony's broader family and friends."

Tony is remembered fondly at all levels of the club.

Former Hampshire captain Dimi Mascarenhas described him as "a true gentleman and absolute champion of a man. I'm a better person for meeting and knowing him."

Writing on the blog run by former Hampshire archivist Dave Allen, a former colleague of Tony's on the Hampshire CCC committee, John White, paid the following tribute: "Tony was a stalwart of the club and in those days he only had a small staff in the office all, like him, dedicated to the task of keeping it going at a very difficult time.

"Like yourself I was on the committee during his time in office and can confirm how hard he worked towards that end. My last memory is of helping him count the takings after a match at the Bowl. When we found ourself a few pounds over, he insisted we counted it all again! RIP."

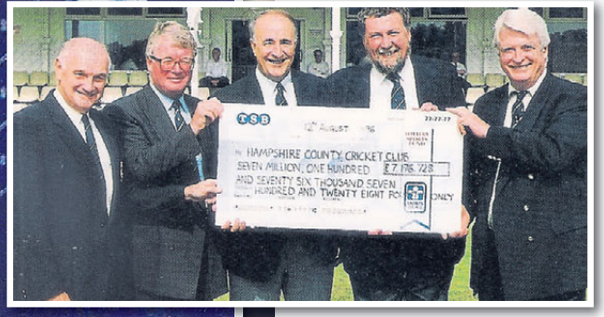
Genuine guy

Brian Scrimshaw, chairman of the Hampshire Cricket Members (Portsmouth & South East Area Association), concurred.

"I knew Tony very well too, not only through my involvement

HANTS CRICKET

'true gentleman'



Tony Baker, inset right, with committe members Mike Taylor, BIll Hughes, Brian Ford and Wilfrid Weld and the National Lottery cheque that helped fund Hampshire's move from Northlands Road to the Rose Bowl in 2000 (Hampshire Cricket). Above, Baker wth the Benson & Hedges Cup.

with a number of smaller committees but also as a genuine guy who would always stop to chat," he said.

"Indeed, I was impressed that he welcomed me in person when I became a member back in the early 80s over at Northlands Road."

In the days before media officers and media teams, Tony was also the press contact and spokesman for the club. He handled the media as he did everything else, in an honest and gentlemanly way.

He ensured Hampshire's interests were protected but never shied away from awkward or tough questions.

And you knew you were always dealing with a straight arrow of a guy.

Tony Baker's considerable sporting prowess first became evident at Taunton's Grammar School, where he excelled both academically, at cricket and on the basketball court, where he was a prolific point-scoring centre.

He played basketball for Old Tauntonians and represented the South.

A Saints season ticket holder in The Dell days, Tony's uncle George Baker was club secretary at Southampton FC.

After a brief spell with the Inland Revenue, he concentrated in a career in accountancy, but alongside his family – he is survived by his wonderful wife (of over 50 years) Sally (always great fun to spend time with) and sons Paul and Jonathan – cricket was always his first love.

Old Tauntonians were a dominant force in south of England cricket during the pre-league Tony Baker era.

Tall and upright, he opened the OTs batting for years, alongside forming a formidable new-ball bowling partnership with Tim Binks and Bernie Thomason.

"In many ways he was a dogged opening batsman, seldom playing many bad shots and always working out ways to score runs when the going was tough," reflected long time friend and OTs teammate Derek Tulk, with whom he shared many years of captaincy.

"Everything Tony did was spot on. An inspirational figure, he was as straight as a dye."

All ten wickets

The advent of competitive league cricket in the early 1970s saw Old Tauntonians win three of the first five Southern League championships and finish runners-up to Deanery, their arch Southampton rivals, in the sixth.

In 1972, he performed the feat of taking all ten Netley Sports wickets for 26 playing for OTs in the Hector Young Evening Trophy final in the Southampton Parks.

Four years later – by which time Southern League had really become established – he helped set a new first-wicket partnership for Southampton Touring Club, making an unbeaten 126 in a 235-run stand as Australian Old Collegians were beaten by ten wickets at the County Ground, Northlands Road.

Playing and often skippering Southampton Touring Club took Tony Baker all over the south for all-day Sunday matches, the club boasting a formidable fixture list.

Tony Baker was an outstanding cricketer, as well as being a kind and genial team-mate with a great sense of humour.

The type of sportsman, sadly, we will rarely see again.

Dismal time for bowlers in S Africa

BANGLADESH'S bowlers have suffered a truly dismal time on their country's tour of South Africa.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at how their matches have gone so far.

1st Test

Bangladesh won the toss and inserted their hosts at Senwes Park, Potchefstroom.

It turned out to be a poor decision as Dean Elgar and Aiden Markram put on 196 for the first wicket before the latter was run out for 97.

Elgar (199) and Hashim Amla (137) continued to pile on the misery as South Africa romped to 411-1.

They declared on 466-3 and eventually won by a massive 333 runs, skittling Bangladesh for just 90 in their second innings.

2nd Test

It was very much a case of deja vu at the Mangaung Oval in Bloemfontein.

Yet again Bangladesh won the toss and yet again they chose to field.

And yet again South Africa piled up a large total - this time 573-4 declared.

Dean Elgar (113) and Aiden Markram (143) put on 243 for the first wicket, before No 3 bat Hashim

Hashim Amla

Amla hit 132 and No 5 Faf du Plessis made an undefeated 135.

In reply, Bangladesh were bowled out for 147 and 172 to lose by an innings and 254 runs - one of the biggest margins of defeat in modern Test history.

1st ODI

Bangladesh posted 276-7 in the first of three ODIs.

They then failed to take a single wicket as South African openers Quinton de Kock and Hashim Amla compiled a new ODI opening record for their country.

The hosts won on 282-0 with de Kock 168 not out and Hashim Amla 110 not out.

2nd ODI

For once, Hashim Amla didn't score a century.

That was the good news for Bangladesh's bowlers.

The bad news was that AB de Villiers bludgeoned a career best 176 off just 104 balls - with 15 fours and seven sixes - as the hosts rattled up 353-6 at Paarl on their way to victory.

It was South Africa's fourth highest ODI innings of all time, a list still headed by Gary Kirsten's 188 against Sri Lanka back in the mid 1990s.

Root may have to 'con' England

JOE Root may have to "con" England into believing they win the Ashes without talisman Ben Stokes, according to Michael Vaughan.

Former England captain Vaughan insists Australia will be overwhelming favourites to win the Ashes should the tourists be shorn of all-rounder Stokes for the opening Test.

Stokes could miss the first clash that starts on November 23 owing to the fall-out from his Bristol arrest in September for actual bodily harm that left him with a broken finger.

And ex-England skipper Vaughan believes current captain Root must find a way to galvanise his side against the Aussies if Stokes misses out.

"His greatest challenge is going to be to convince the team they can win," said Vaughan.

"It may be that he has to lie a bit and con them.

"He might have to blow up a few tyres that might be flat and convince them they are good enough to beat this Australian team.

"I don't think it is right to go there and talk down the Aussies. I've been around captains that do that and it doesn't work.

"It is worth saying they are good. They are not what they were 20 years ago but they are dangerous and you know what they will produce over five matches.

"The problem with England over the last two years is they have had

Ben Stokes

moments where we have all thought they were brilliant and then the week after, like at Headingley (in defeat to West Indies), you have thought 'what the hell was that?'

"He has to make sure they are consistently playing at a level to take the game into days four and five. I don't see them blowing Australia away in three days."

Vaughan hailed Stokes as England's second-best batsman, behind skipper Root, and admitted fearing the tourists would lose confidence in his absence.

"I am sure Australia respect a lot of our players but the one they fear the most is not going to be there," said Vaughan.

"I've not seen too many celebrations from the Australians but I am sure in private they have cracked open a few bottles of Penfold.

England's second best player with the bat.

"With the ball he is erratic at times but he has an impact. In the field you know he will produce something.

"More importantly it is his mindset. I watch England walk out on the field and when Stokes is in the team they walk out two inches taller.

"If he is not there in Brisbane you would have to say Australians are clear favourites to win the series."

PINK INK

Warner starts a

Simon Walter

Aussie's 'hatred' of England ahead of Ashes series

Joe Root, above, was punched by David Warner, main picture, back in 2013.

DAVID Warner is looking to stoke up some "hatred" for England's players ahead of the "war" of this winter's Ashes.

The Australian batsman has fielded lots of criticism after his comments this week

"As soon as you step on that line it's war," Warner said, as he looked ahead to the first Test at The Gabba on November 23.

"You try and get into a battle as quick as you can.

"I try and look in the opposition's eyes and try and work out: 'How can I dislike this player? How can I get on top of him?'

During the last Ashes series, Warner made headlines for the wrong reasons when he described Jonathan Trott's dismissals as being "poor" and "weak" a few days before the England batsman returned home with a stress-related illness.

"Four years ago, during that first Test, I made some statements in the media and at the time I thought it was a great thing to come out and speak what I said," he added.

"I have no regrets about that and I think that could have played a little bit of a role in the back of their minds. At the moment I'm not going to put any vibes out there or get into a verbal stoush … but come day one when we walk out there, there will definitely be some words exchanged."

Here, the Sports Pink looks back on some other heated exchanges in previous battles for the urn.

Bodyline, 1932-33

England captain Douglas Jardine claimed "I've not travelled 6,000 miles to make friends" before instructing Harold Larwood to lead a barrage of fast hostile bowling intended to nullify the prolific Donald Bradman.

Larwood struck Australia captain Bill Woodfull painfully in the third Test and, after also fracturing Bert Oldfield's skull, had to be escorted off at the close.

Woodfull refused to retaliate in kind, telling MCC tour manager Sir Pelham Warner, "There are two teams out there. One is trying to play cricket and the other is not", while Jardine threatened to withdraw his team from the tour unless an accusation of "unsportsmanlike" play was retracted.

Larwood, though, later moved to Australia and struck up a close friendship with Oldfield.

A Game of Throws, 1958-59

Australia paceman Ian Meckiff's 17 wickets at 17.17 were overshadowed by his wristy bowling action, which England paceman Fred Trueman called "totally illegal" while ex-England spinner Johnny Wardle accused him of "throwing England out".

Meckiff's career ended when he was indeed no-balled for throwing in a 1963 Test against South Africa. His autobiography "Thrown Out" was attributed to "Ian 'Chucker' Meckiff as told to Ian McDonald" - Australian journalist McDonald had staunchly defended him.

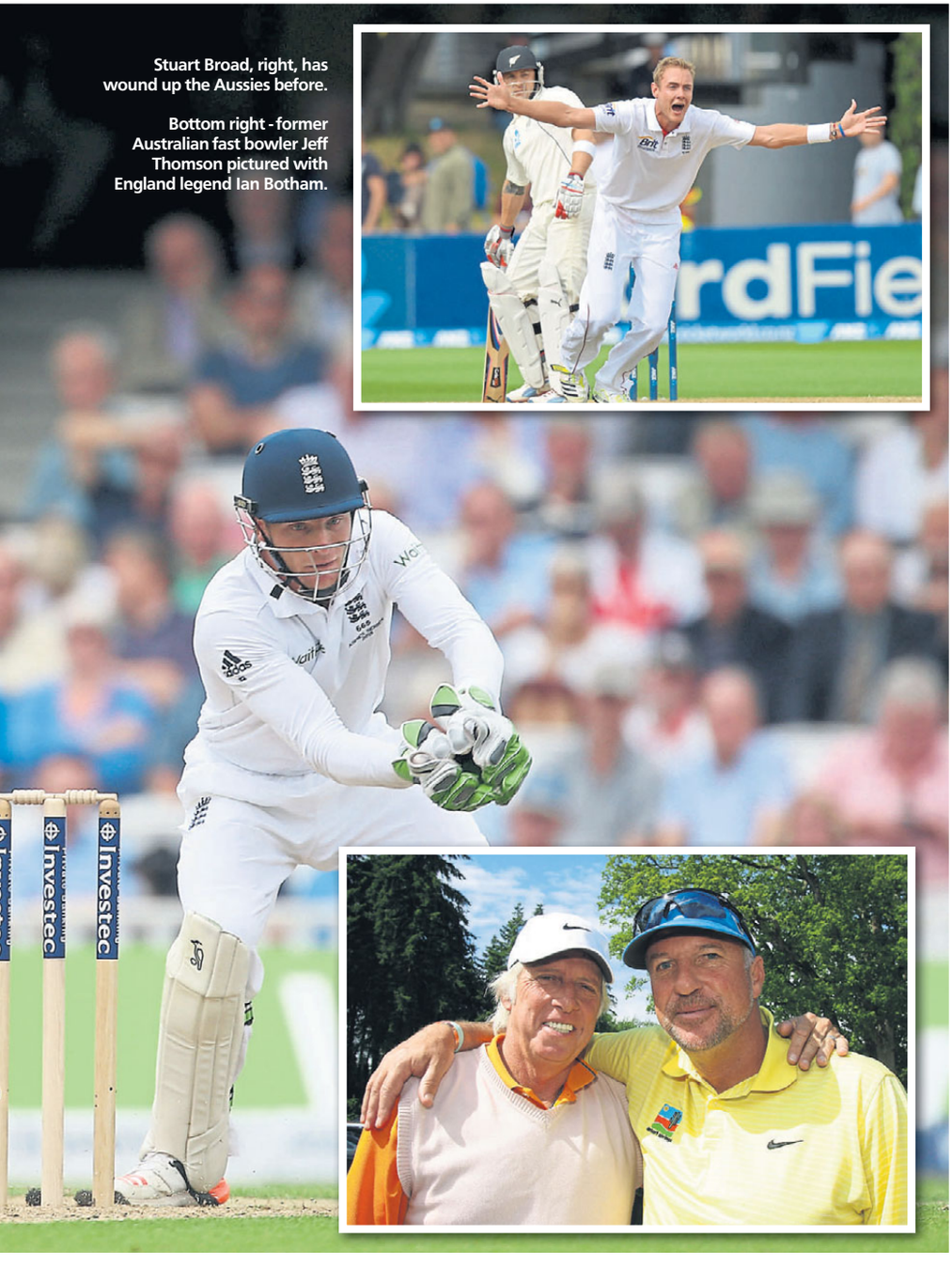
Lillee and Thommo, 1974-75

Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson terrorised England's batsmen to the extent that captain Mike Denness admitted after the tour: "Some of the lads said they were glad to get out alive."

After a Tony Greig bouncer, Lillee warned "Just remember who started this", with the tension heightened by Greig frequently signalling his own fours.

PINK INK

war of words...



Stuart Broad, right, has wound up the Aussies before.

Bottom right - former Australian fast bowler Jeff Thomson pictured with England legend Ian Botham.

Keith Fletcher was hit between the eyes in the fourth Test by Thomson - who admitted his love of seeing "blood on the pitch" - after some choice words from Lillee.

"Dennis runs up to Fletcher to abuse the s*** out of him" as he came in, Thomson told All Out Cricket in 2013, "telling him he's going to kill him if I don't".

Thomson gave it a good go - and appealed off the ball that hit Fletcher, telling the umpire: "He's out caught d*******, can't you see?". It took "the best six stitches you've ever seen" on Fletcher's forehead to convince him otherwise.

Warner and Root, 2013

Warner's previous tiffs with England include labelling Jonathan Trott "weak" and memorably punching Joe Root in a bar ahead of the 2013 series.

The now-England captain was wearing a green and gold wig on his chin in a way Warner took as mocking South Africa's Muslim batsman Hashim Amla.

Reflecting on the incident in 2015, Warner said: "I thought it was a bit inappropriate, in today's society you shouldn't be fooling around with that kind of stuff. He probably didn't mean anything by it, I probably let my aggression and alcohol take over."

Even amid that apparent contrition, though, was a quip about spotting England's Steven Finn "asleep in the gutter" afterwards.

Broad's edge, 2013

That summer's 3-0 England series win saw Stuart Broad anger Australia by standing his ground when a clear edge ricocheted off wicketkeeper Brad Haddin to Michael Clarke at slip.

Australia's then-coach Darren Lehmann described it as "blatant cheating" and said ahead of the return series: "I hope the Australian public give it to him right from the word go. And I hope he cries and goes home."

Broad, unperturbed, said: "Maybe Australia were frustrated they had wasted two referrals. It was an important moment because if (Ian Bell) and I hadn't put on those runs, we would only have won 3-1 or something."

● There has also been a lot of wit exchanged in Ashes sledges. These are five of the best.

Spectator v Tufnell, 1990/91

"Oi Tufnell! Can I borrow your brain? I'm building an idiot!" Earlier that day, Tufnell asked Australian umpire Peter McConnell how many balls were left in his over only to be told: "Count them yourself you Pommie b*****d."

Atherton and Healy, 1990/91

Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy accused Michael Atherton of "being a f*****g cheat" when he stood his ground, refusing to walk. The England batsman's reply was perfect: "When in Rome dear boy..."

Merv Hughes to an out-of-form Graham Gooch, 1989

I'll bowl you a piano, let's see if you can play that".

Shane Warne to Paul Collingwood, 2006/07

You got an MBE, right? For scoring seven at The Oval? That's embarrassing.

Jimmy Ormond to Mark Waugh, 2001.

Waugh: There's no way you're good enough to play for England.

Ormond: Maybe not but at least I'm the best player in my own family!

Book review

Rugby, The Game Of My Life:
Battling For England in the Professional Era
By Rob Andrew

Sportsbookofthemonth.com
price: £14.99, saving £5.10 on rrp

It's refreshing to report that Rob Andrew's Rugby, The Game Of My Life does not replicate the all-too-common autobiographical template and subject its readers to a chronological dash through a hugely successful rugby career.

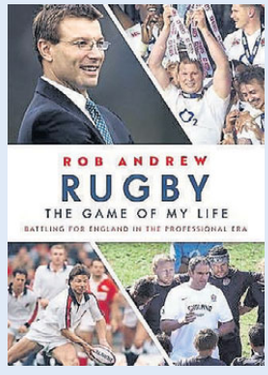
Instead, the former Wasps, Newcastle and England man has written a thoughtful, reflective and at times opinionated book which provides plenty of food for thought for those in charge at the RFU.

Andrew's opinions are worthy of note.

Few would contradict his conclusion that the idea of fast-tracking an accomplished international rugby league player, Sam Burgess, into rugby's 15-man game was "...an error of judgement and enormously costly."

Burgess wasn't the sole cause of England's abysmal showing at the last Rugby World Cup.

For this, Stuart Lancaster must shoulder the lion's share of the blame and Andrew pulls no punches when he says that under the intensity of a home tournament, the head coach "flew directly in the face of his own good judgement."



By contrast, there's Jonny. Steve Bates, a former Wasps team-mate, introduced Andrew, then coaching at Newcastle, to a youthful Jonny Wilkinson, a boy who, from the earliest age, was obsessed with rugby. Andrew can add detail that enlivens Wilkinson's fascinating story.

His overviews are very interesting. Andrew is eager to offer his thoughts on why the New Zealanders are so much better than the English when planning their national coach succession.

He also believes that a player strike is not beyond the realms of possibility, while he has sympathy with club owners who have spent enormous sums of money on players only to see the international season encroach further onto the domestic set-up.

Rugby, he concludes, "is a victim of its own progress".

It's notable, perhaps, that the last word in the previous sentence is not 'success', a deliberate omission, one senses, for despite rugby's increased exposure, Andrew believes it has further to go.

It's a pity that this book may not have as wide an audience as it deserves, primarily because it's perceived as being one for the rugby purist. To an extent, this is correct, but anyone who simply enjoys watching the game should be urged to tackle it with the ferocity of a Jonny Wilkinson tackle.

Purdue has a race date!

GREAT Britain star Charlotte Purdue is looking forward to her third Simplyhealth Great South Run - and her boyfriend's first.

The GB star will be running in the same race as her beau, 1500m runner Adam Clarke, for the first time in Southsea tomorrow.

She said: "For the last four years I've been telling him about how bad the wind is on the home straight and this year he's actually running it for the first time!

"I can't wait to see him after the race and see how he found it!

"Track runners don't start their season till next year so he's doing this for his winter training.

"He's never really runs over 5k, especially on the road, but has been doing a few runs with me recently.

"I've been telling him not to go off too hard because the last two miles are savage - hopefully he takes that on board!

"This is our first race together but the elite women start before the elite men so I don't get to watch him run which is a bit annoying."

Charlotte Purdue

Purdue forms part of a strong domestic field including Gemma Steel, Katrina Wootton and Lily Partridge.

And she is in form after finishing 13th in the World Marathon Championships in August.

"It's a really open field this year," she said.

"I had a break after the World Championships but got back into racing at the Great Scottish Run a few weeks ago and it will be good to keep the momentum going.

"This is my fourth time at the Great South, which is the only ten-mile race I ever do.

"But I don't even know what my pb is!

"In the first year I came down I had such a bad cold the organisers told me to go home but I was third in an international field the last time."

PINK INK

Great South

Simon **Walter**

TWENTY-seven years after it began in Southampton, the Great South Run continues to thrive as one Europe's most popular ten-mile races.

Up to 25,000 runners will brave strong winds while running the Portsmouth course tomorrow, which finishes on Southsea seafront.

They include Great Britain's Chris Thompson, who will defend his Simplyhealth Great South Run title following his memorable victory on the Southsea coast last year, when he outsprinted Fareham's Andy Vernon to the finish.

It was certainly a big improvement on his Great South Run debut in 2009, when he had every runner's nightmare on the home straight after eating beetroot as part of his preparation.

"I discovered why beetroot can be used as a laxative, it was quite a messy ending!" Thompson told the Daily Echo in 2013.

"It was so red a lot of people thought I was bleeding but, when people realised what had actually happened, it was quite embarrassing!"

Thompson, who won European 10,000m silver behind Mo Farah in 2010, prepared in scintillating fashion a fortnight ago when he upset the odds to beat Callum Hawkins to the Bank of Scotland Great Scottish Run half marathon title.

A regular at Great South Runs in recent years, Thompson goes from outsider to favourite with the home support expected to be right behind the Aldershot Farnham and District athlete, who won last year in 47:23.

"I've been coming here for years and it was such a relief last year to finally win, it meant so much to me," he said.

In the women's race, Charlotte Purdue and Gemma Steel will battle it out for honours.

Purdue - who also runs for Aldershot - finished second in the Great Scottish Run half marathon after her 13th place in the marathon at the World Athletics Championships in London this summer.

Tracy Barlow, who also represented Great Britain over the marathon in this summer's World Championships, will challenge Purdue and Steel in a largely domestic field which incorporates the English 10 Mile Championships.

Katrina Wootton is also expected to be in the mix.

Wootton, who finished a creditable third in May's Simplyhealth Great Manchester Run, will be joined by Winchester's Louise Damen, who represented GB in the 2014 Commonwealth Games over the marathon distance.

The Great South Run is televised live on Sunday from 10am until 12.15pm.

The Junior and Mini Great South Run, scheduled to take place earlier today, were cancelled yesterday evening, due to Storm Brian.

But the forecast for tomorrow is much better.

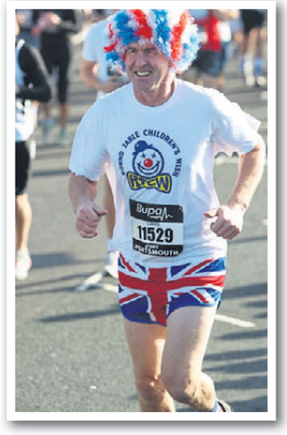
Dame Kelly Holmes is the honorary started for the main race, which has featured some all-time greats over the last quarter of a century.

Paula Radcliffe set a new British record when she won the 2008 women's event in a time of 51 minutes, 11 seconds.

That remains the second fastest Great South Run time by a woman, although Kenya's Vivian Cheruiyot came close in 2015 (51 minutes, 17 seconds).

Two other British women have won the event.

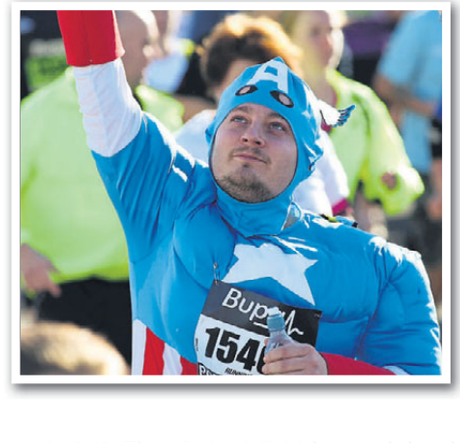
Liz McColgan was top of the podium in 1995, in a time of 53 minutes, 12 seconds. The Scotswoman bettered that time when she re-



The Great South Run always sees some of the runners compete in fancy dress. Here are some examples ...

PINK INK

Run is here



turned two years later, crossing the line in a time of 52 minutes exactly.

Jo Pavey won it in 2006 (52 minutes, 46 seconds) and in 2012 (53 minutes, one second), where the race formed part of her preparation for the London Olympics, where she was seventh in both the 5,000m and 10,000m.

Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan set the current women's record of exactly 51 minutes in 2002. The former 5,000m world champion defended her Great South Run title in 53 minutes 26 seconds the following year.

Last year Thompson was the first British winner of the men's race since Mo Farah, who won in 2009 in a time of 46 minutes, 25 seconds.

Even that was not good enough to break three-time winner Gary Staines' British record for the course (46 minutes, 11 seconds), which was set in 1993.

The overall men's record is Joseph Ebuya's time of 45:15, set by the Kenyan in 2010.

Ebuya's compatriot, Benson Masya, is the only other runner to have completed the Great South Run course in under 46 minutes.

He won the 1995 edition in 45 minutes, 56 seconds.

Great South Run men's winners

1990 Marti ten Kate (NED) 47:52
1991 Thomas Naali (TAN) 47:11
1992 Boay Akonay (TAN) 47:04
1993 Gary Staines (GBR) 46:11
1994 Gary Staines (GBR) 47:00
1995 Benson Masya (KEN) 45:56
1996 Gary Staines (GBR) 46:57
1997 Christopher Kelong (KEN) 46:53
1998 Stéphane Franke (GER) 47:40
1999 Simon Kasimili (KEN) 47:42
2000 Gert Thys (RSA) 48:26
2001 Khalid Skah (MAR) 46:17
2002 Simon Kasimili (KEN) 47:27
2003 John Yuda (TAN) 46:35
2004 Hendrick Ramaala (RSA) 47:14
2005 John Yuda (TAN) 46:45
2006 Simon Arusei (KEN) 47:17
2007 Luke Kibet (KEN) 47:31
2008 Bernard Kipyego (KEN) 46:42
2009 Mo Farah (GBR) 46:25
2010 Joseph Ebuya (KEN) 45:15
2011 Leonard Komon (KEN) 46:18
2012 Stephen Mokoka (RSA) 46:40
2013 Emmanuel Bett (KEN) 48:03
2014 James Rungaru (KEN) 46:31
2015 Moses Kipsiro (UGA) 46:00
2016 Chris Thompson (GBR) 47:23

Great South Run women's winners

1990 Alison Gooderham (GBR) 56:09
1991 Olga Bondarenko (URS) 53:16
1992 Iulia Negura (ROM) 53:19
1993 Iulia Negura (ROM) 53:01
1994 Gitte Karlshøj (DEN) 54:49
1995 Liz McColgan (GBR) 53:12
1996 Derartu Tulu (ETH) 52:39
1997 Liz McColgan (GBR) 52:00
1998 Marian Sutton (GBR) 54:17
1999 Esther Kiplagat (KEN) 54:42
2000 Restituta Joseph (TAN) 55:10
2001 Restituta Joseph (TAN) 52:36
2002 Sonia O'Sullivan (IRL) 51:00
2003 Sonia O'Sullivan (IRL) 53:26
2004 Benita Johnson (AUS) 52:32
2005 Derartu Tulu (ETH) 51:27
2006 Jo Pavey (GBR) 52:46
2007 Rose Cheruiyot (KEN) 53:44
2008 Paula Radcliffe (GBR) 51:11
2009 Inês Monteiro (POR) 52:32
2010 Grace Momanyi (KEN) 52:03
2011 Aselefech Mergia (ETH) 52:55
2012 Jo Pavey (GRB) 53:01
2013 Florence Kiplagat (KEN) 53:53
2014 Belaynesh Oljira (ETH) 52:40
2015 Vivian Cheruiyot (KEN) 51:17
2016 Tirunesh Dibaba (ETH) 51:49

#10in24 is Claire's goal

THE inspirational Claire Lomas MBE is aiming to complete the ten-mile Great South Run in 24 hours- while wearing a robotic suit.

The 37-year-old, who is a paraplegic as a result of a riding accident in 2007, completed the 2012 London Marathon in 17 days and last year's Great North Run in five in a ReWalk suit.

She will be wearing it again to complete the ten-mile Southsea course, which she was determined to start at 10am this morning, despite the weather, as she aims to raise more money for the Nicholls Spinal Injury Foundation.

Claire, from Leicestershire, said: "This is a little bit different to my other challenges! I thought the Great North [half marathon] would be the last.

"Then I got this daft idea. I'll be moving slower than most people's walking pace. Every bump is an obstacle and the weather won't help.

"I don't think I've looked at the forecast so often! But I'll

be at the finish.

"I'm not thinking about the ten miles, I'll focus on going from lamp post to lamp post.

"I've worked really hard in training, I'm pleased with how it's gone and don't feel I could have done a lot more.

"When you can't feel three quarters of your body and haven't got any muscle it's harder. In the suit I can't feel the ground beneath me but I'll see if I can put enough together to make ten miles."

The mum of two young has a support team made up of family members. "My girls will be going back but 12 of us will be walking through the night - we've got loads of good tunes to bang out!

"They're brilliant, I couldn't do it without them walking by my side to give me a windshield! Hopefully I don't get blown over. I've had a walk in the wind, it was hard but quite exciting.

"It makes a big difference to have people cheering me on, hopefully they'll be there at 2am!"

For more information visit claireschallenge.co.uk

Who could lead the next Lions?

WARREN Gatland has ruled himself out of contention to coach the British and Irish Lions in 2021, revealing that he "hated the press and negativity" during this summer's drawn series in New Zealand.

Here, the Sports Pink examines fives alternatives to lead the tour to South Africa.

EDDIE JONES - ENGLAND

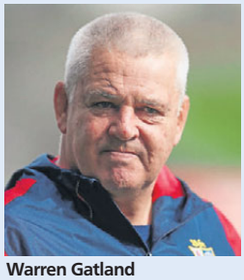
Contracted to England until 2019 so the timing of the Lions tour two years later is far from perfect, but should he stay on by being successful at the next World Cup, Jones would be in the mix. By 2021 his insight into British and Irish rugby would be extensive - combine that with his coaching expertise and he becomes an outstanding candidate.

JOE SCHMIDT - IRELAND

Another highly-respected tactician whose future is not mapped out beyond Japan 2019, Schmidt was in consideration for the post in New Zealand until the stars aligned in Gatland's favour. The Kiwi may seek a return home where he is much admired by the All Blacks hierarchy, but if available for the Lions he becomes a prime contender.

MARK MCCALL - SARACENS

The Ulsterman's stock climbs higher every season, and he is mooted in some quarters as Jones' successor at Twickenham



Warren Gatland

despite a lack of international experience. Undoubtedly the pick of coaches operating in the Premiership as the guide of Saracens' rise to the pinnacle of European rugby, he could become Schmidt's successor at Ireland - thereby paving the way to take charge of the Lions.

GREGOR TOWNSEND - SCOTLAND

The least experienced of the candidates on this list, but a young coach of rich promise with a strong Lions pedigree as a player who helped topple the Springboks in 1997. Gatland wanted to take Townsend to New Zealand as part of his backroom staff during the summer, but the 44-year-old rejected the opportunity in order to focus on his new role at the helm of Scotland.

DAI YOUNG - WASPS

Wasps' fortunes have suffered amid a glut of injuries and - while Young has yet to win the major silverware that will elevate him to the top rank of coaches on these shores - he is a respected figure who is well placed to succeed Gatland when he steps down after the 2019 World Cup. From that position the door opens to taking charge of a Lions tour.

PINK INK

Five to watch in next week's racing ...

TROPHY TRIUMPH

Doncaster stages the last Group One contest of the British season in Saturday's Racing Post Trophy and it will be fascinating to see which horses Aidan O'Brien fields in the mile heat. The Pentagon and Saxon Warrior have been two of the headline-grabbers from the Ballydoyle outfit this summer and if either of those two turn up, the Doncaster management will surely be thrilled.

CHELTENHAM CURTAIN-RAISER

The idea of the Festival in March is already raising the pulses of jumps fans, so the return of racing to Cheltenham will only further heighten the anticipation of the National Hunt season proper really kicking into gear. Billed as The Showcase meeting, the Ryman Stationery Cheltenham Business Club Novices' Chase is the key event on Friday's card while Saturday's programme features no less than five class two events that always draw good fields.

AINTREE ACTION

While the wraps remain on the Grand National fences for another few weeks, Aintree begins its season in earnest with a classy Sunday card starring the 188Bet Monet's Garden Old Roan Chase. The Grade Two event honours Nicky Richards' ever-popular grey who won the race three times, including a memorable eclipse of dual Cheltenham Gold Cup hero Kauto Star in 2007. The two-and-a-half-mile heat usually draws some decent names.

HILL HONOURS

Newbury signs off for the Flat season with a two-day fixture boasts a couple of Pattern contests on Saturday. The Horris Hill Stakes, alternately known as the Worthington's Alzheimer's Society Stakes, is a Group Three heat for juveniles and the seven-furlong trip can sometimes take some getting if the weather has not been favourable. The other highlight is the Worthington's OCSL Stakes, better known as the St Simon, which commemorates an unbeaten racehorse in the 1880s who went on to be a seminal sire.

SAINT-CLOUD DOUBLE

It is a Group One double at Saint-Cloud on Sunday with both the Criterium International and the Criterium de Saint-Cloud taking place. The first-named heat is contested over seven furlongs and has spawned some future stars, not least subsequent Arc winners Dalakhani and Bago. Thunder Snow lifted the prize for Godolphin in 2016. The Criterium de Saint-Cloud is over a mile and a quarter, with Fame And Glory being a notable victor for Aidan O'Brien back in 2008.

Eventful times under Ashley's ownership

MIKE Ashley's tenure as Newcastle owner has been nothing if not eventful.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at the landmarks during his often controversial reign.

May 23, 2007

Ashley buys a 41 per cent stake in the club, finally completing a £134.4m takeover in July.

Jan 9, 2008

Sam Allardyce, the manager appointed by then chairman Freddy Shepherd just days before Ashley launched his ownership bid, is sacked less than eight months into his reign.

Jan 16, 2008

Ashley and new chairman Chris Mort pull off something of a coup by persuading Kevin Keegan to return to St James' Park as manager.

Sept 4, 2008

Keegan resigns over the club's transfer policy and later wins a £2million pay-out for constructive dismissal.

Sept 14, 2008

Ashley puts the club up for sale for the first time amid a furious backlash over Keegan's exit.

Sept 26, 2008

Newcastle appoint interim manager Joe Kinnear, who has been out of the professional game for almost four years.

Dec 28, 2008

Ashley announces the club is no longer for sale.

April 2, 2009

Former Magpies striker Alan Shearer is handed eight games to spare the Magpies from relegation with Kinnear recovering from heart surgery.

Mike Ashley

May 24, 2009

The Magpies are relegated after a 1-0 defeat at Aston Villa. Six days later, the club is up for sale again.

Oct 27, 2009

The club is taken off the market and caretaker manager Chris Hughton is appointed on a permanent basis.

April 5, 2010

Promotion is secured when Nottingham Forest fail to beat Cardiff and Newcastle go on to win the title a fortnight later at Plymouth.

Dec 6, 2010

Hughton is sacked five weeks after a 5-1 derby win over Sunderland with the club 11th in the Premier League table.

Dec 9, 2010

Alan Pardew is appointed as Hughton's replacement, just a few months after he was sacked by Saints.

Nov 9, 2011

The hierarchy sparks fury by announcing St James' will be renamed the Sports Direct Arena.

May 13, 2012

The Magpies finish fifth in the Premier League to qualify for European football for the first and only time under Ashley.

Oct 9, 2012

The club announces a controversial shirt sponsorship deal with payday lender Wonga.

June 18, 2013

Kinnear returns to St James', this time as director of football. He resigns the following year amid fallout over the sale of midfielder Yohan Cabaye.

Dec 31, 2014

Pardew leaves for Crystal Palace amid frustration over transfer spending. Assistant John Carver is appointed as his replacement.

June 10, 2015

Former England boss Steve McClaren is named manager. He lasts just 10 months.

March 11, 2016

Rafael Benitez is unveiled as McClaren's successor.

May 11, 2016

The Magpies are relegated as a result of Sunderland's victory over Everton.

May 25, 2016

Benitez agrees to stay.

April 24, 2017

A 4-1 victory over Preston secures the club's passage back to the top flight and the title follows on a dramatic final day.

Oct 16, 2017

Ashley's decision to put the club back on the market is announced.

PINK INK

The Rugby League World Cup – a guide by numbers

THE 2017 Rugby League World Cup kicks off in Melbourne on Friday October 27 when England take on co-hosts Australia.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at some of the numerical statistics around the event.

13 - Cities hosting matches.

3 - Host countries; Papua New Guinea will stage World Cup matches for the first time - all three in Port Moresby - along with Australia and New Zealand.

1954 - The first World Cup was hosted by France and won by England 63 years ago.

28 - Matches in total.

14 - Competing teams.

10 - Australia's record number of World Cup wins.

2 - Uncapped players in England's squad: Ben Currie and Alex Walmsley.

15 - The competition in Australia and New Zealand will be the 15th World Cup.

68 - Super League players appearing in the competition.

Timeline of Foxes' slide after glory

LEICESTER are beginning the search for their third manager since being crowned Premier League champions in 2016 after sacking Craig Shakespeare just eight games into the current season. Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at how the Foxes have fallen from the dizzy heights at the top of English football to strugglers in 17 months.

May 2016

Under former boss Claudio Ranieri, Leicester defied odds of 5000-1 to clinch the Premier League crown and complete one of the greatest sporting fairytales when closest rivals Tottenham were held 2-2 by Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. The Foxes had drawn at Manchester United the previous day and could not be caught with two games left.

June 2016

Leicester sold key player N'Golo Kante to Chelsea for an undisclosed club-record fee, around £30m. Striker Jamie Vardy turned down a move to Arsenal earlier in the summer.

Oct 2016

Leicester's 3-0 defeat to Chelsea at Stamford Bridge was their fourth in their opening eight Premier League matches and it was clear Ranieri's side were suffering from a hangover. They had won only two of those eight games and slipped to 13th in the table, 11 points adrift of leaders Manchester City.

Nov 2016

The Foxes belied their stuttering domestic form to secure qualification to the Champions League knock-out stages at the first attempt and with a game to spare. But back-to-back league defeats had left them two points above the relegation zone.

Dec 2016

Craig Shakespeare

Questions were raised in the media about Ranieri's leadership after his side crashed to a 5-0 defeat in Porto in their final Champions League group game.

Jan 2017

A 3-0 home defeat to Manchester United left Ranieri's side searching for their first league win of the year after five matches and left them one point above the drop zone.

Feb 2017

Ranieri had become increasingly distant from backroom staff and after questionable tactics and selection decisions the spotlight began to fall on the manager. The Italian publicly berated his players after the Foxes were knocked out of the FA Cup at Millwall.

Feb 23, 2017

Leicester sacked Ranieri, nine months after he had led them to the Premier League title. The Foxes were one point above the relegation zone with 13 games left.

April 2017

Caretaker boss Craig Shakespeare guided the Foxes to a sixth straight win in all competitions in his sixth game in charge after a 2-0 home success against Sunderland.

May 2017

Leicester drew their final match of the 2016/17 season 1-1 at home against Bournemouth to finish 12th in the table, 10 points clear of relegation.

June 2017

Shakespeare was confirmed as permanent manager, signing a three-year contract, despite the Foxes winning just two of their final eight league games.

Sept 2017

A 1-1 draw at Huddersfield left Leicester outside the bottom three only on goal difference. They had won only one of their first five league games.

Oct 17, 2017

Shakespeare was sacked, four months after signing his permanent contract. The Foxes slipped to third from bottom, two points from safety, after their 1-1 home draw against WBA saw their winless run stretched to six matches.

Who could take over at Leicester?

LEICESTER are on the hunt for a new boss having sacked Craig Shakespeare .

Here, we assess who the Foxes could appoint next.

SAM ALLARDYCE

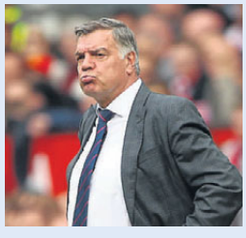
The ex-England manager is the early bookies' favourite for the role. Allardyce left Crystal Palace at the end of last season, saying he had "no ambitions to take another job" and at the weekend, amid suggestions he could be suited to the Scotland job, he said was "enjoying not being involved at the front end of football". The 62-year-old has extensive experience in the top flight with six clubs and would fit the bill for the Foxes.

CHRIS COLEMAN

The timing might be perfect for Wales boss Coleman. After nearly six years in charge of his national team, during which time he took them to the Euro 2016 semi-finals, Coleman is currently mulling over whether to pen a new contract with Wales having missed out on qualification for next summer's World Cup. His stock remains high from what he achieved with the Welsh in France two summers ago.

ROBERTO MANCINI

The Italian, who won the Premier League title with Manchester City, was one of those linked with the post when Claudio Ranieri was axed in



Sam Allardyce

February. Mancini was out of work then but has since taken the job at Russian club Zenit St Petersburg, who are currently top of their domestic table. Mancini has Leicester links in that he previously played for them.

CLAUDIO RANIERI

Upon hearing news of Shakespeare's exit, former Foxes striker Gary Lineker tweeted: "Bring back Claudio". The man who led Leicester to that improbable title success in 2015-16 remains popular among fans but has enough water passed under the bridge for all parties since Ranieri's shock exit earlier this year? It is worth noting the Srivaddhanaprabha family, who own Leicester, also hired Nigel Pearson at Belgian club OH Leuven, despite axing him from his job in the midlands.

SEAN DYCHE

Burnley's boss celebrates his fifth anniversary at Turf Moor this month and continues to enhance his reputation as one of the finest English managers around. The Clarets have won promotion, twice, under his watch, and look on course to survive in the top flight for a second straight year after a strong start

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PINK RESULTS

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

Premier League

Chelsea 4 **Watford** 2
Pedro 12; Batshuayi 71,90; Azpilicueta 87 — Doucoure 45; Pereyra 49
HT 1-1 Att 41,467

Huddersfld 2 **Man Utd** 1
Mooy 28; Depoitre 33 — Rashford 78
HT 2-0

Man City 3 **Burnley** 0
Aguero 30 pen; Otamendi 73; Sane 75
HT 1-0 Att 54,118

Newcastle 1 **Crystal P** 0
Merino 86
HT 0-0 Att 52,251

SAINTS L **W.B.A.** L
HT L-L

Stoke 1 **AFC Bournemouth** 2
Diouf 63 — Surman 16; Stanislas 18 pen
HT 0-2 Att 29,500

Swansea 1 **Leicester** 2
Mawson 56 — Fernandez 25 og; Okazaki 49
HT 0-1 Att 20,521

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Man City	9	4	1	0	21	3	4	0	0	11	1	25
Man Utd	9	4	0	0	14	0	2	2	1	8	4	20
Tottenham	8	1	2	1	3	3	4	0	0	12	2	17
Chelsea	9	2	1	2	8	6	3	0	1	9	4	16
Watford	9	1	2	1	5	10	3	1	1	10	7	15
Newcastle	9	3	1	1	7	4	1	1	2	3	4	14
Arsenal	8	4	0	0	11	3	0	1	3	1	7	13
Liverpool	8	2	2	0	6	1	1	2	1	7	11	13
Burnley	9	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	6	7	13
Huddersfld	9	2	2	1	4	6	1	1	2	3	4	12
Brighton	9	2	1	1	5	4	1	1	3	4	6	11
W.B.A.	8	1	3	0	4	3	1	1	2	3	6	10
Leicester	9	1	1	2	6	6	1	2	2	6	8	9
SAINTS	**8**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**5**	**7**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**9**
Swansea	9	1	0	4	4	9	1	2	1	2	1	8
Everton	8	2	0	2	3	5	0	2	2	2	8	8
West Ham	9	2	0	2	5	6	0	2	3	3	11	8
Stoke	9	2	1	2	6	9	0	1	3	4	11	8
Bournemouth	9	1	1	2	3	5	1	0	4	3	8	7
Crystal P	9	1	0	3	2	7	0	0	5	0	12	3

SkyBet Championship

A. Villa 2 **Fulham** 1
Terry 23; Adomah 49 — Johansen 45
HT 1-1 Att 30,724

Barnsley 0 **Hull** 1
Campbell 78
HT 0-0 Att 13,624

Bolton 1 **Q.P.R.** 1
Pratley 22 — Sylla 78
HT 1-0 Att 14,243

Brentford 3 **Sunderlnd** 3
Yennaris 8; Jozefzoon 47; Maupay 78 — Grabban 13,45 pen; Bentley 40 og
HT 1-3 Att 10,726

Bristol C 0 **Leeds Utd** 3
Samuel 4,14; Lasogga 67
HT 0-2 Att 24,435

Derby Cty 2 **Sheff Wed** 0
Vydra 5 pen; Johnson 86
HT 1-0 Att 27,426

Middlesbro 0 **Cardiff** 1
Ralls 84 pen
HT 0-0 Att 24,806

Millwall L **Birminghm** L
HT L-L

Nottm For 2 **Burton Albion** 0
McKay 58; Lichaj 78
HT 0-0 Att 24,686

Sheff Utd 2 **Reading** 1
Coutts 19; Sharp 37 — Beerens 85
HT 2-0 Att 26,265

Wolves 3 **Preston North End** 2
Ivan Cavaleiro 44; Leo Bonatini 59 pen,63 — Hugill 65; Coady 76 og
HT 1-0 Att 27,352

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Wolves	13	5	1	1	13	8	4	1	1	11	5	29
Cardiff	13	4	2	0	11	3	4	1	2	7	7	27
Sheff Utd	13	6	0	1	10	3	3	0	3	8	8	27
Leeds Utd	13	3	2	1	10	3	4	0	3	11	9	23
A. Villa	13	4	3	0	10	5	2	1	3	9	8	22
Bristol C	13	3	3	1	10	6	2	3	1	10	8	21
Preston	13	3	3	0	8	3	2	3	2	9	8	21
Derby Cty	12	4	1	1	11	3	1	3	2	6	10	19
Norwich	12	2	3	1	5	4	3	1	2	7	10	19
Ipswich	11	4	0	2	11	7	2	0	3	9	10	18
Fulham	13	1	4	1	7	7	3	2	2	10	7	18
Nottm For	13	4	0	3	9	9	2	0	4	8	12	18
Middlesbro	13	3	2	2	8	6	1	3	2	7	6	17
Hull	13	3	1	2	18	8	1	3	3	6	12	16
Sheff Wed	13	3	2	1	12	8	1	2	4	4	8	16
Q.P.R.	13	3	2	1	9	6	0	4	3	7	11	15
Millwall	12	3	1	2	12	9	0	3	3	2	5	13
Brentford	13	1	5	1	11	11	1	2	3	6	7	13
Barnsley	12	2	2	3	9	10	1	1	3	6	8	12
Reading	12	1	2	2	5	6	2	1	4	6	8	12
Birminghm	12	3	1	2	5	6	0	1	5	3	13	11
Burton Alb	3	2	1	3	5	12	0	3	4	1	13	10
Sunderlnd	13	0	2	4	4	9	1	4	2	12	16	9
Bolton	13	1	1	5	6	14	0	2	4	1	10	6

SkyBet League One

AFC Wimbledon 0 **Plymouth** 1
Grant 65
HT 0-0 Att 4,848

Blackburn 3 **POMPEY** 0
Dack 38, Graham 58, Conway 90
HT 1-0 Att 11,673

Blackpool 1 **Wigan** 3
Vassell 8 — Dunkley 45,54; Perkins 82
HT 1-1 Att 5,817

Bradford 0 **Charlton** 1
Forster-Caskey 72
HT 0-0 Att 20,066

Doncaster 0 **Walsall** 3
Oztumer 62,66; Morris 80
HT 0-0 Att 7,391

Gillingham 1 **Northmptn** 2
Martin 62 — Powell 45; Grimes 73
HT 0-1 Att 4,640

M K Dons 4 **Oldham** 4
Gilbey 17, Upson 56,89; Nesbitt 82 — Davies 7, Doyle 39,45; Clarke 63
HT 1-3 Att 9,312

Oxford Utd 3 **Rotherham** 3
Payne 21; Ruffels 30, Nelson 40 — Newell 20; Williams 44, Moore 78
HT 3-2 Att 7,471

Rochdale 1 **Bristol R** 0
Done 7
HT 1-0 Att 2,944

Scunthorpe 2 **Peterboro** 1
Novak 79, Morris 87 pen — Edwards 51
HT 0-0 Att 4,275

Shrewsbry 1 **Fleetwood Town** 0
Nsiala 89
Att 5,989 HT 0-0

Southend 1 **Bury** 0
Leonard 84
HT 0-0 Att 6,787

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Shrewsbry	15	7	1	0	14	3	4	3	0	10	6	37
Wigan	15	6	1	0	15	2	5	1	2	14	7	35
Bradford	15	4	1	3	9	8	4	2	1	15	10	27
Charlton	14	4	1	1	9	6	4	2	2	13	10	27
Rotherham	15	6	0	1	21	6	2	1	5	7	13	25
Blackburn	13	4	1	2	12	6	3	1	2	7	4	23
Oxford Utd	15	3	4	1	17	9	3	1	3	9	9	23
Scunthorpe	15	3	3	2	8	6	3	2	2	7	5	23
Blackpool	14	5	1	1	10	6	1	3	3	10	12	22
Peterboro	14	4	0	3	11	12	2	3	2	13	9	21
Fleetwood	14	3	2	2	14	13	3	1	3	9	10	21
POMPEY	**15**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**13**	**5**	**2**	**1**	**5**	**6**	**14**	**20**
Southend	15	4	4	0	10	6	1	1	5	9	20	20
Walsall	15	2	5	0	12	10	2	2	4	9	13	19
M K Dons	15	2	4	2	11	13	3	0	4	6	9	19
Bristol R	15	4	0	3	13	12	2	0	6	10	17	18
Rochdale	15	3	3	2	9	8	0	4	3	6	10	16
Doncaster	15	2	3	3	10	11	2	0	5	7	9	15
Wimbledon	15	2	2	4	6	8	2	1	4	3	8	15
Oldham	14	2	0	4	8	12	2	3	3	15	19	15
Bury	14	3	1	3	9	7	0	2	5	7	14	12
Northmptn	15	2	0	5	5	14	1	3	4	7	12	12
Gillingham	15	1	3	4	7	10	1	2	4	2	9	11
Plymouth	15	1	1	5	5	14	1	3	4	6	9	10

SkyBet League Two

Barnet 1 **Yeovil** 1
Akinola 6 — Khan 81
HT 1-0 Att 1,751

Cambridge 2 **Chesterfld** 1
Brown 70, Ikpeazu 78 — Dennis 55
HT 0-0 Att 4,529

Carlisle 1 **Notts Cnty** 1
Hope 25 — Yates 58
HT 1-0 Att 4,730

Cheltnham 1 **Lincoln City** 0
Wright 30
HT 1-0 Att 3,312

Coventry 0 **Colchester** 0
HT 0-0 Att 7,149

Crawley 0 **Luton** 0
HT 0-0 Att 3,494

Crewe 0 **Acc Stanley** 2
Kee 3 pen, Clark 11
HT 0-2 Att 3,849

Exeter 0 **Port Vale** 1
Pope 25
HT 0-1 Att 4,258

Morecambe 0 **Grimsby** 0
HT 0-0 Att 1,525

Newport County 1 **Mansfield** 1
McClousky 69 — Rose 22
HT 0-1 Att 3,146

Stevenage 1 **Forest Grn** 2
Godden 43 — Brown 61; Doidge 73
HT 1-0 Att 2,099

Swindon 1 **Wycombe** 0
Smith 15
HT 1-0 Att 7,114

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Luton	15	6	0	1	24	7	3	4	1	10	5	31
Notts Cnty	15	5	2	0	14	5	4	1	3	11	11	30
Acc Stanley	15	4	1	2	11	7	5	1	2	15	11	29
Exeter	15	5	0	3	11	9	4	2	1	11	8	29
Wycombe	15	3	2	2	14	12	4	3	1	14	10	26
Newport Co	15	4	2	1	10	4	3	2	3	13	11	25
Swindon	15	3	1	4	9	13	5	0	2	12	5	25
Coventry	15	5	1	2	9	2	2	2	3	5	6	24
Stevenage	15	4	2	2	16	12	3	1	3	8	12	24
Lincoln City	15	3	3	1	9	5	3	2	3	7	9	23
Cambridge	15	5	1	2	12	8	2	1	4	4	8	23
Grimsby	15	2	3	2	7	8	4	1	3	12	13	22
Mansfield	15	4	2	1	14	8	1	4	3	7	12	21
Cheltnham	15	5	0	3	15	10	1	2	4	5	10	20
Colchester	15	3	2	2	13	7	2	2	4	7	13	19
Carlisle	15	1	4	3	10	11	4	0	3	10	10	19
Crewe	15	4	2	3	12	12	1	0	5	3	10	17
Yeovil	15	3	3	1	10	6	1	1	6	11	23	16
Crawley	15	1	1	6	4	10	3	2	2	8	6	15
Barnet	15	2	3	3	8	8	1	2	4	10	12	14
Port Vale	15	1	1	5	8	11	3	1	4	8	9	14
Morecambe	15	2	2	4	5	9	1	3	3	7	11	14
Forest Grn	15	1	1	5	7	16	2	2	4	7	16	12
Chesterfld	15	1	1	5	6	12	1	1	6	7	17	8

Scottish League Cup Semi-final

Hibernian 2 **Celtic** 4
Stokes 59 pen; Shaw 70 — Lustig 15,42; Dembele 66,88
HT 0-2 Att 39,813

Ladbrokes Scottish Prem

Hearts 1 **St Johnstn** 0
Lafferty 74
HT 0-0 Att 18,534

Partick 2 **Dundee** 1
Edwards 75; Storey 90 — Leitch-Smith 8
HT 0-1 Att 3,358

Ross Cnty 2 **Hamilton** 1
Schalk 70; Mikkelsen 86 — Docherty 52
HT 0-0 Att 3,509

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Celtic	9	3	2	0	12	4	4	0	0	9	1	23
Aberdeen	9	3	1	0	8	2	4	1	0	8	4	23
Rangers	9	1	1	2	6	6	4	1	0	14	5	17
Motherwell	9	4	0	2	10	4	1	1	1	5	7	16
Hearts	10	1	1	0	1	0	3	2	3	9	11	15
St Johnstn	10	3	1	1	8	6	1	1	3	5	9	14
Hibernian	9	1	1	2	6	7	2	3	0	8	6	13
Ross Cnty	10	1	1	4	6	10	2	0	2	4	7	10
Dundee	10	2	1	1	7	6	0	1	5	4	13	8
Hamilton	10	1	0	4	7	12	1	1	3	7	9	7
Kilmarnock	9	0	2	4	4	10	1	1	1	3	3	6
Partick	10	1	2	3	8	11	0	1	3	2	8	6

Ladbrokes Scottish Ch'ship

Brechin 0 **Queen Sth** 1
Kerr 60
HT 0-0 Att 562

Dundee Utd 0 **Inverness CT** 2
Vigurs 28; Bell 36
HT 0-2 Att 5,560

Dunfrmline 3 **Livingston** 1
Higginbotham 2,38; Aird 30 — Mullen 87
HT 3-0 Att 5,059

Falkirk 0 **St Mirren** 0
HT 0-0 Att 5,080

Morton 1 **Dumbarton** 1
McHugh 50 — Stewart 5
HT 0-1 Att 1,428

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
St Mirren	10	5	0	0	15	5	2	1	2	6	8	22
Dunfrmline	10	4	0	1	15	6	2	2	1	10	4	20
Livingston	10	2	2	1	8	7	3	1	1	9	6	18
Dundee Utd	10	3	1	1	6	5	2	1	2	4	6	17
Queen Sth	10	2	1	1	6	3	2	2	2	9	8	15
Morton	10	2	1	2	8	6	2	2	1	5	4	15
Dumbarton	10	2	1	2	4	8	0	3	2	4	6	10
Inverness CT	10	0	2	2	2	5	2	1	3	10	11	9
Falkirk	10	0	4	2	2	7	1	1	2	4	7	8
Brechin	10	0	2	4	3	12	0	0	4	3	9	2

Ladbrokes Scottish Lge 1

Albion R 0 **Queen Park** 1
Orr 48
HT 0-0 Att 425

Alloa 4 **East Fife** 1
Crossan 25; Hetherington 45; Graham 60; Flannigan 74 — Wilkie 8
HT 2-1 Att 556

Arbroath 7 **Airdrieonians** 1
Swankie 18; McCord 27 pen,89; Denholm 34,60; Linn 36; Hester 82 — Conroy 12 pen
HT 4-1 Att 740

Forfar 0 **Ayr Utd** 5
Moffat 15,64,81; Shankland 52; Moore 85
HT 0-1 Att 664

Stranraer A **Raith** A
Agnew 36 — Vaughan 11
HT A-A
waterlogged pitch.

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Raith	9	5	0	0	12	2	2	1	1	12	3	22
Ayr Utd	10	2	2	1	12	7	4	0	1	17	6	20
Arbroath	10	2	1	2	13	9	3	1	1	14	6	17
Albion R	10	1	0	4	4	13	4	0	1	20	10	15
East Fife	10	3	0	2	9	10	2	0	3	5	10	15
Stranraer	9	3	0	2	11	11	1	2	1	7	6	14
Alloa	10	3	1	1	10	8	0	2	3	4	9	12
Airdrieonians	10	2	1	1	7	4	1	1	4	7	17	11
Queen Park	10	0	2	3	5	15	2	0	3	4	7	8
Forfar	10	1	1	3	3	14	0	1	4	3	12	5

Ladbrokes Scottish Lge 2

Berwick 0 **Montrose** 1
Johnston 30
HT 0-1 Att 508

Clyde 1 **Peterhead** 4
Ramsay 11 — Smith 28, Leitch 65; McLean 66, McAllister 74
HT 1-1 Att 403

Cowdenbth 0 **Stirling A** 3
D Smith 28; MacDonald 33; McLaughlin 67
HT 0-2 Att 371

Edinburgh City 0 **Annan Athletic** 1
Smith 72 pen
HT 0-0 Att 249

Elgin 2 **Stenhsmuir** 0
Cameron 56 pen; Reilly 75
HT 0-0 Att 654

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Stirling A	9	3	1	1	13	7	4	0	0	13	5	22
Montrose	9	2	1	1	6	6	3	1	1	6	5	17
Peterhead	9	1	1	2	6	7	4	0	1	14	5	16
Stenhsmuir	9	4	0	1	12	4	0	3	1	3	5	15
Elgin	9	3	1	1	9	4	1	1	2	7	8	14
Annan Ath	9	1	1	2	3	4	3	0	2	10	6	13
Berwick	9	2	0	2	7	9	2	0	3	3	8	12
Clyde	9	1	2	2	7	10	1	0	3	8	11	8
Edinburgh City	9	1	0	4	2	10	1	0	3	3	8	6
Cowdenbth	9	1	0	3	1	8	0	2	3	2	5	5

Vanarama National League

AFC Fylde A **Maidstone Utd** A
Finley 16; Muldoon 29 — Pigott 25
HT 2-1
Abandoned - due to adverse weather conditions.

Aldershot 2 **Tranmere** 1
Robert 80; Rendell 90 — McNulty 17
HT 0-1

Bromley 2 **Woking** 0
Holland 42; Rees 45
HT 2-0 Att 1,577

Chester FC 1 **Boreham W** 2
Bell 77 — Jeffers 31; Andrade 38
HT 0-2

Dagenham 0 **Wrexham** 1
Robson 90 og
HT 0-0

Dover 1 **Maidenhead Utd** 1
Bird 76 — Hyde 90
HT 0-0

EASTLEIGH 3 **Gateshead** 2
Williamson 4; Constable 62; Strevens 90 — Preston 74; Vassell 87
HT 1-0 Att 1,597

Ebbsfleet United 3 **Barrow** 2
McLean 24; Drury 76; Powell 80 — Gomis 71,90
HT 1-0 Att 1,402

FC Halifax 1 **Torquay** 1
Waring 68 — Reid 76
HT 0-0

Guiseley 4 **Solihull Moors** 2
Molyneux 23; Liburd 65; Lawlor 68; Rooney 86 — Afolayan 43,67
HT 1-1

Hartlepool 1 **Sutton Utd** 1
Oates 39 — Wright 90
HT 1-0

Leyton O 0 **Macclesfld** 1
Wilson 45
HT 0-1

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Dover	16	3	3	2	10	6	5	2	1	11	5	29
Wrexham	16	4	3	1	8	4	4	2	2	6	4	29
Macclesfld	15	4	2	2	9	9	5	0	2	8	6	29
Woking	16	6	1	1	14	7	3	0	5	9	14	28
Sutton Utd	16	4	2	2	13	12	4	2	2	9	8	28
Bromley	16	5	1	2	14	4	3	2	3	10	13	27
Aldershot	16	4	2	2	16	10	3	3	2	10	8	26
Boreham W	16	4	1	3	11	7	3	3	2	14	12	25
Dagenham	16	5	1	2	18	10	1	5	2	9	10	24
Ebbsfleet	16	3	4	1	12	9	2	5	1	12	10	24
FC Halifax	16	4	2	2	11	9	2	4	2	6	6	24
Maidstone	15	2	5	1	10	9	4	0	3	10	9	23
Maidenhead	16	4	2	2	13	10	2	3	3	11	13	23
Hartlepool	16	3	2	3	8	8	3	3	2	8	8	23
Tranmere	16	3	2	3	8	7	2	3	3	4	5	20
EASTLEIGH	**15**	**3**	**3**	**1**	**10**	**7**	**1**	**4**	**3**	**7**	**9**	**19**
Gateshead	16	4	2	2	12	6	0	4	4	7	12	18
Leyton O	15	3	1	3	12	10	2	2	4	9	16	18
AFC Fylde	15	1	4	2	9	12	2	3	3	13	13	16
Barrow	16	2	5	1	9	6	0	2	6	9	15	13
Guiseley	16	2	4	2	11	10	0	3	5	3	18	13
Chester FC	15	1	3	4	7	11	1	3	3	6	12	12
Torquay	16	1	3	4	8	10	0	2	6	8	19	8
Solihull Moors	16	1	2	5	9	14	1	0	7	7	17	8

Vanarama National Lge Sth

Bath City 1 **Braintree Town** 1
Rigg 79 — Oliyide 85
HT 0-0 Att 842

Bognor Regis Town 1 **Chippenham** 3
Sekajja 85 — Twine 39; Pratt 49; Jones 53
HT 0-1 Att 495

Chelmsford 1 **Dartford** 0
West 15
HT 1-0 Att 1,027

Concord Rgs L **Weston-S-Mare** L
Cawley 6 pen,15 pen — Hill 54; Rapai 90
HT 2-0

Eastbourne Borough 2 **East Thurrock** 2
Torres 58; Dawes 74 — Belho-Anderson 39; Cornhill 42
HT 0-2

Gloucester 0 **Welling U** 1
Healy 84
HT 0-0

Havant and W 2 **Poole Town** 2
Prior 31; Rutherford 88 — Neale 49; Bentley 77
HT 1-0

H Hempstead 2 **Oxford C** 0
Sheringham 21; McCall 50
HT 1-0

St Albans 0 **Hungerford Town** 0
HT 0-0

Wealdstone 2 **Truro City** 1
Eisa 27,29 — Harvey 81
HT 2-0

Whitehawk 1 **Hampton & Richmond** 3
Elliott 62 — Jolley 1; Hudson-Odoi 23,33
HT 0-3

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
L	1	1	1	L	1	1	L	1	1	3●	3●	1	1	L	1	L	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
1	3●	3●	1	1	1	1	3●	1	3●	1	2	2	1	1	2	3●	1	1	1	1	1	1	3●

NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Saturday, 21 October 2017
NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Bath City 1 Braintree Town 1
Bognor Regis Town 1 Chippenham 3
Chelmsford 1 Dartford 0
Concord Rangers 2 Weston-Super-Mare 1
Eastbourne Borough 2 East Thurrock 2
Gloucester 0 Welling 1
Havant & Waterlooville 2 Poole Town 2
Hemel Hempstead 2 Oxford City 0
St Albans 0 Hungerford 0
Wealdstone 2 Truro 1
Whitehawk 1 Hampton & Richmond 3
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division:
Bishops Stortford 1 Tiverton 2
Chesham 2 Biggleswade 0
Dorchester 0 Banbury Utd 2
Dunstable 1 Redditch 1
Farnborough 2 St Neots 4
Frome 1 Basingstoke 0
Gosport Borough pp Kings Lynn
Hereford 3 Kings Langley 0
Hitchin 2 Merthyr Town 0
Kettering 0 Slough 0
St Ives 1 Weymouth 2
Stratford 1 Royston 1
West Division:
AFC Totton pp Bideford
Barnstaple 0 Slimbridge 3
Bristol Manor Farm 4 Cinderford 2
Cirencester 4 Yate 4
Didcot 1 Bishops Cleeve 0
Kidlington 2 North Leigh 1
Mangotsfield 3 Larkhall 1
Salisbury 0 Evesham 0
Shortwood United 2 Paulton Rovers 3
Taunton Town 4 Winchester City 1
Wimborne 3 Swindon Supermarine 0
East Division:
Arlesey Town 0 Moneyfields 4
Aylesbury 2 Hartley Wintney 0
Barton Rovers 0 Bedford Town 1
Chalfont St Peter 1 Cambridge City 1
Egham Town 3 Uxbridge 3
Fleet Town 2 Marlow 0
Hayes & Yeading United 1 AFC Rushden & Diamonds 0
Kempston Rovers 1 Hanwell Town 1
Northwood 3 Aylesbury United 0
Thame United 3 Ashford Town 0
FA VASE, first round proper:
AFC Portchester 2 Cullompton Rangers 3
Baffins MR 1 Radstock Town 0
Bashley 2 Bridgewater Town 3 (aet)
Brockenhurst 2 Crediton United 1 (aet)
Christchurch 3 US Portsmouth 0
Fareham Town 4 Ivybridge Town 3
Farnham Town 2 Lymington Town 0
Frimley Green 0 Blackfield & Langley 2
Hengrove Athletic 4 Alton 2 (aet)
Highworth Town 1 Sholing 3
Newport IoW 5 Bovey Tracey 0
Portland United pp Horndean
Romsey Town 2 Hamble Club 3
Wantage Town 4 Cadbury Heath 3
Wellington AFC 4 Downton 3 (aet)
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division:
Alresford 1 Hamworthy United 3
Amesbury 1 Team Solent 3
Bournemouth Poppies pp Bemerton HH
Cowes Sports 0 Petersfield 1
Division 1:
Andover NS 2 New Milton 0
Christchurch 3 Hythe & Dibden 0
East Cowes Vics 1 AFC Stoneham 5
Laverstock & Ford 5 Tadley Calleva 6
Verwood 2 Folland Sports 3
Whitchurch 2 Ringwood 4
NEW FOREST CARE HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Premier Division:
Hedge End Rangers 0 Hayling United 2
Liss Athletic pp Fleetlands
Overton pp Paulsgrove
Stockbridge 1 Clanfield 3
Sway pp Liphook
Division 1:
South Wonston Swifts 1 Upham 3
Combination Division:
Clanfield 5 Winchester Castle 1
Fleetlands 2 QK Southampton 2
Hayling United pp Headley United
Paulsgrove 3 Overton 2
SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP, second round:
AFC Gulf Western 2 Nursling 2 (6-7 pens)
Lyndhurst 1 Infinity 3
Netley Central pp Comrades
QK Southampton 2 Bush Hill Res 0
Wincheser Castle pp Bush Hill
ALDERSHOT INTERMEDIATE CUP, first round:
Headley 6 Rushmoor Community 1
AIC, second round:
Four Marks pp Eversley & California Res
Frimley Select 5 Alton 3
Hartley Wintney A 2 AFC Petersfield 2 (1-4pens)
Liphook United Res pp West End Village
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
East Division:
AFC Stoneham pp Gosport Borough
Folland Sports pp Liss Athletic
Hamble Club pp Fareham Town
Petersfield Town pp Baffins MR
Sholing 7 Newport IoW 2
Tadley Calleva 1 Alresford Town 3
US Portsmouth 3 Bosham 1
West Division:
Bemerton HH 3 Brockenhurst 1
Colden Common pp Verwood Town
Downton pp Laverstock & Ford
Hythe & Dibden pp Christchurch
Lymington Town 3 Totton & Eling 1
New Milton Town 3 East Cowes Vics 2
Ringwood Town pp Romsey Town
Team Solent 4 Fawley AFC 0
DREW SMITH GROUP SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE
Premier:
Chamberlayne AFC 0 Soton University 2
SENIOR 1:
Compton 1 Comrades Res 1

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